Bengaluru Wednesday, March 25, 2026 Pages 18 Vol 79 No 83 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Zero FIR in B'luru alleging conspiracy in Ajit Pawar's death

Page 4

Nation

Gujarat Assembly passes Uniform Civil Code Bill P.10

Sports

Jolt to RCB, pacer Yash Dayal to miss IPL P.15

State

House debates if kids should clean schools P.6

Nation

Oppn writes to Centre on women's quota P.10

SC status only for Hindus, Buddhists or Sikhs: Top court

Says a person loses recognition upon conversion

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

COURT OBSERVATIONS

Conversion to any religion not specified in Clause 3 (the Hindu, the Buddha and the Sikh) results in immediate and complete loss of Scheduled Caste status from the moment of conversion, regardless of birth

- No statutory benefit, protection or reservation or entitlement under the Constitution or enactment of Parliament or state legislature can be claimed
- A person can claim benefits under the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, only if he/she continues to belong to that particular tribe in substance
- If, due to conversion or long-term abandonment of tribal customs, his/her tribal identity is in doubt, that question becomes a factual matter to be determined at trial

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declared that no person who professes a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism would be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste.

For the Scheduled Tribe status, the prescription, however, is not religion-based exclusion but adherence to customary practices, social organisation, community life, and acceptance by the concerned tribal community, it clarified.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan said that the bar in respect of religion under Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, is categorical and absolute.

"Conversion to any religion not specified in Clause 3 (the Hindu, the Buddha and the Sikh) results in immediate and complete loss of Scheduled Caste status from the moment of conversion, regardless of birth," the bench said.

The court dismissed a plea of Chinthada Anand, who worked as a pastor for 10 years, against the Andhra Pradesh High Court's order which quashed a criminal case lodged by him under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The bench emphasised, a person cannot simultaneously profess and practice a religion other than the ones specified in Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and claim membership of a Scheduled Caste at the same time.

"A person who professes and practises such a religion for personal, social and spiritual purposes cannot in law, assert membership of a Scheduled Caste for the purpose of securing statutory benefits. The two positions are mutually exclusive and contrary to the constitutional scheme," the court said.

The bench also dealt with the broader legal issue, namely, the conditions under which a person who has undergone religious conversion may avail the statutory benefits granted to the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The court pointed out that Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution enumerated the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

"A person can claim benefits under the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, only if he/she continues to belong to that particular tribe in substance. If, due to conversion or long-term abandonment of tribal customs, his/her tribal identity is in doubt, that question becomes a factual matter to be determined at trial," the bench said.

▸ Conversion, Page 3B

Euthanasia: Harish Rana dies in AIIMS

NEW DELHI, DHNS: After being in coma for more than 13 years, Harish Rana – the first person in India to be allowed by the Supreme Court to undergo a passive euthanasia protocol – passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Research here on Tuesday, the hospital said.

"Harish Rana passed away at 4.10 pm on March 24 at AIIMS, Delhi. He was under the care of a dedicated team of doctors and was admitted to the palliative oncology unit (IRCH), led by Seema Mishra, head of the department, onco-anaesthesia and palliative medicine," the AIIMS said in a statement.

Details on Page 11

Cancelled train ticket: 8-hour limit for refund

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday said confirmed train tickets which are cancelled less than eight hours before the train's departure will no longer be eligible for refunds.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

The new rule, which is intended to reduce last-minute cancellations and improve seat availability for other passengers, will come into force between April 1 and 15 this year.

Details on Page 10

7 teams to tackle war impact: PM

To look into fuel, fertiliser, supply chain issues

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid the West Asia crisis, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced setting up of seven empowered groups to work out strategies in dealing with issues like disruptions in the supply of petrol and diesel, gas and fertiliser from the Gulf region, as well as inflation and supply-chain problems.

Making a statement in the Rajya Sabha, Modi also asked states to crack down on black marketers and hoarders to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities to consumers.

"Just as empowered groups of exporters and officials were formed to address challenges in various sectors during the Covid-19 pandemic, seven new empowered groups were formed yesterday. These groups will work to take action on issues such as supply chains, petrol-diesel, fertilisers, gas and inflation, using a quick and long-term strategy," he said, highlighting the steps the government has been taking to tide over the crisis.

Narendra Modi

The Union government is yet to come out with details on these groups such as their compositions and terms of references.

With kharif (summer) cropping just a few months away, Modi said the Centre has made necessary preparations to ensure adequate supply of fertilisers for farmers for the sowing season.

▸ West Asia, Page 3B

GULF TURMOIL

- Iran names Md Bagher Zolghadr as secy of Supreme National Security Council
- Lebanon withdraws accreditation of Iran's ambassador
- US expected to send thousands of soldiers to West Asia
- Israel army says plans in Iran, Lebanon unchanged regardless of talks

An emergency worker at the site of an Iranian missile strike in Tel Aviv on Tuesday. REUTERS

- Israel says will take 'control' of security zone in south Lebanon
- Iran, Israel trade strikes despite Trump talk of negotiations
- Iran says 'non-hostile' ships can transit Strait of Hormuz
- Iran toughens negotiating stance amid mediation efforts

> We're actually talking to the right people and they want to make a deal so badly, you have no idea how badly they want to make a deal.
>
> US President Donald Trump on Iran

PM talks peace during call with Trump

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday conveyed to US President Donald Trump New Delhi's support for the efforts to bring back peace in West Asia, amid reports that India's arch-rival Pakistan might host the peace talks between Iran and Israel.

Details on Page 10

India fuel rates stable amid crude spike

The West Asia war has disrupted the global energy market, with crude oil prices surging by more than 40%. This has led to a sharp jump in energy prices globally. In India, however, the increase has been limited to cooking gas and industrial diesel and high-grade petrol.

Details on Page 13

More Indian vessels to sail through Hormuz Page 10

Towing fee: Rs 650 for bikes, Rs 1k for cars

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has fixed towing charges of Rs 650 for two-wheelers and Rs 1,000 for cars as it prepares to resume the system of towing vehicles that are wrongly parked in the city. These charges are in addition to the existing fines that the traffic police charge for parking violations.

Under the new system, the responsibility of providing 'towing vehicles' has been entrusted to the five corporations while the traffic police will use these vehicles to tow wrongly parked vehicles and collect fines from violators.

To start with, each corporation will deploy two vehicles that will also be used for clearing abandoned vehicles, officials said.

▸ Towing, Page 3B

Aditya Birla-led consortium buys RCB for Rs 16,600 cr; Somani-led group takes RR

NEW DELHI, PTI

RCB chronology

- **2008:** Vijay Mallya-owned United Spirits buys team for $111.6m (approx Rs 485 cr)
- **2013:** Diageo acquires a majority stake in United Spirits
- **2016:** Diageo acquires full control of the franchise
- **2026:** Diageo expresses its desire to sell franchise to focus on its core business
- **2026:** Aditya Birla Group consortium acquires the team for $1.78b (approx Rs 16,600 cr)

Close on the heels of Rajasthan Royals being sold to the US-based Kal Somani-led alliance for a whopping $1.63 billion (approx Rs 15,290 crore), the Aditya Birla-led consortium bought the Royal Challengers Bengaluru for $1.78 billion (approx Rs 16,600 crore).

The winning bid, however, is far less than the speculated $2 billion, especially considering the bid Royals managed to garner despite its relative low profile among IPL franchises.

Aditya Birla Group (ABG) was joined by American sports investor David Blitzer, US private equity firm Blackstone and The Times of India Group to acquire 100% stake in the Bengaluru-based franchise, whose value skyrocketed following its maiden title win last June in Ahmedabad.

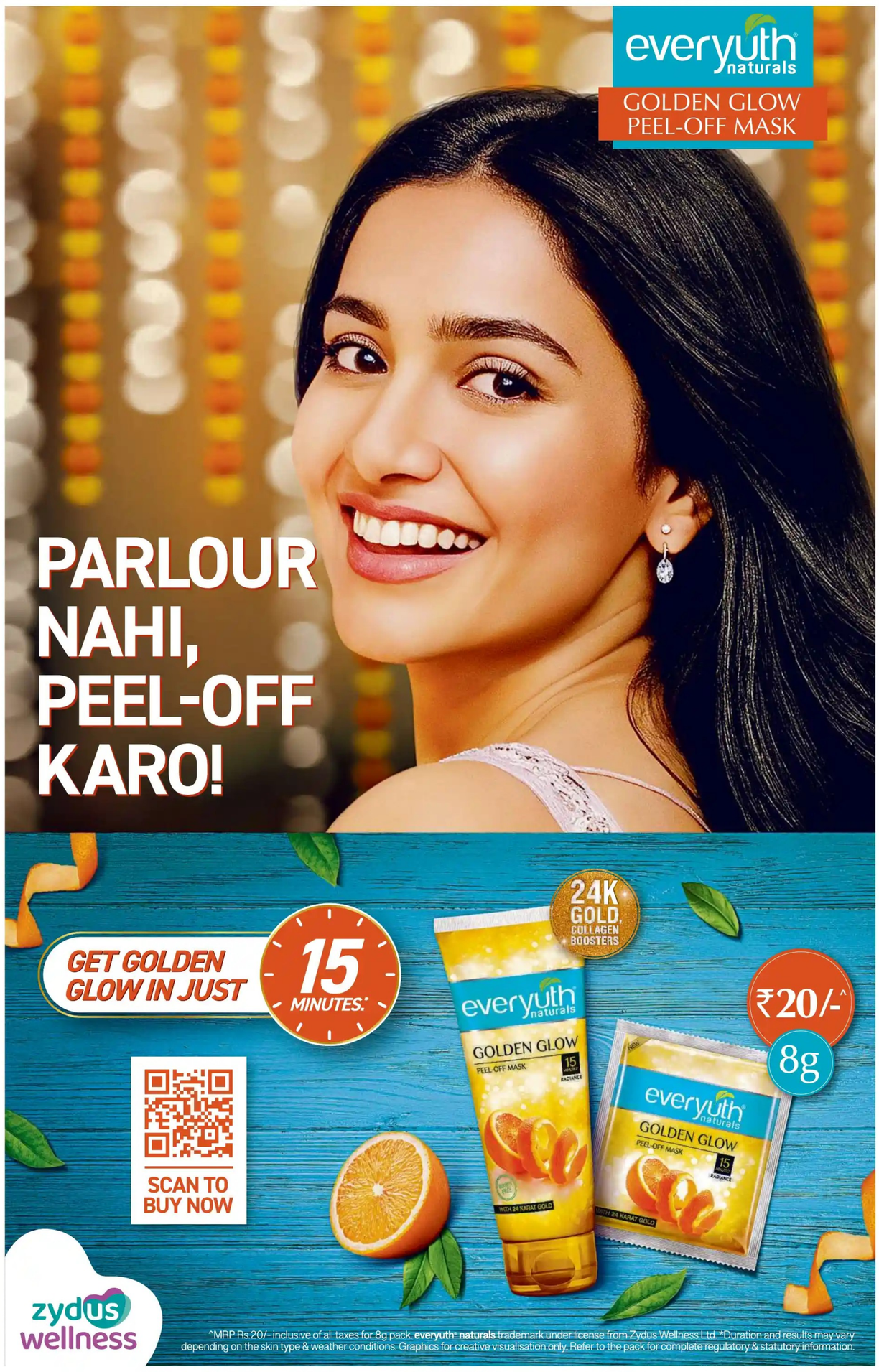
According to sources close to the development, Aryaman Birla of ABG will be the chairman of the franchise with Satyan Gajwani of TOI Group as its vice-chair.

USL, in a release said, "Upon completion of this transaction, the consortium will, through its ownership of RCSPL, acquire the rights to own and operate the IPL and WPL franchise. This announcement concludes the strategic review of RCSPL that was initiated by USL, as announced on November 5, 2025."

While the celebrations had to be cut short following the death of 11 fans in a stampede on June 4, the tragic incident did not have any bearing on franchise's valuation.

What also led to RCB's exponential rise in its value is the success of their women's team in the Women's Premier League, who are already double champions, having won the titles in 2023 and 2025. With the men's team following suit, RCB became the first team to hold both titles simultaneously.

▸ RCB, Page 15


everyuth naturals
GOLDEN GLOW PEEL-OFF MASK
PARLOUR NAHI, PEEL-OFF KARO!
GET GOLDEN GLOW IN JUST
15 MINUTES.*
24K GOLD, COLLAGEN BOOSTERS
₹20/-^
8g
SCAN TO BUY NOW
zydus wellness
^MRP Rs.20/- inclusive of all taxes for 8g pack. everyuth naturals trademark under license from Zydus Wellness Ltd. *Duration and results may vary depending on the skin type & weather conditions. Graphics for creative visualisation only. Refer to the pack for complete regulatory & statutory information.

PRIME SPOT

'Big lobby' eyeing Jakkur Aerodrome land: Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Behind closed doors, Cabinet clears sports complex at Jakkur Aerodrome

Chief secy asks officials to convey matter to HC

A DH report on Jan 17

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka put the Congress government on the mat Tuesday over its plans to evict the iconic Jakkur Flying Training School, and said a top bureaucrat was leading a "big lobby" eyeing the prime 200-acre space.

Ashoka stated that the Congress government intends to relocate the flying school out of the city and construct a large sports complex in its place, primarily to assist the "real estate lobby," which includes developers eager to build high-rise structures in the vicinity, but currently cannot due to air traffic restrictions.

"I know what's going on. There's a big lobby and an officer occupying a top post...I won't take names. The plan is to bring a developer from Rajasthan," Ashoka said during a discussion on Bengaluru development in the Assembly.

Ashoka trained his guns at Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is in charge of Bengaluru development. "Have you set your sights on this land? What do you plan on doing?" he asked Shivakumar.

On November 29, 2025, Principal Secretary (Youth Empowerment & Sports) Naveen Raj Singh wrote to the Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) about the government's plan to relocate the school from the Jakkur Aerodrome to Mysuru, as stated in the letter, Ashoka said.

"This school was inaugurated by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. There's a plaque bearing Nehru's name that Shivakumar now wants to break," Ashoka said.

▸ Jakkur Aerodrome, Page 3B

5 city corps to table first budgets amid revenue concerns

East & Central on Friday; North, West, South on Saturday

BENGALURU, DHNS

The five newly formed city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) will present their budgets on Friday and Saturday, in what is expected to be a closely watched exercise amid revenue pressures and concerns over rising expenditure.

The East and Central City Corporations are scheduled to present their budgets on Friday. The following day, the North, West, and South City Corporations will table their budgets. The venue has not yet been finalised.

This will be the first budget for the five corporations and comes at a time when revenue generation has emerged as a key concern.

Notably, two of the five corporations — North and West — are in a revenue deficit position, raising questions about their ability to fund civic works without additional support.

Property tax collections, the primary source of revenue, have also fallen short despite efforts by the corporations to encourage property owners to clear their dues. Together, the five corporations are estimated to have generated around Rs 4,000 crore from property tax this year—significantly below projections and at least Rs 1,000 crore less than last year's collections.

However, officials remain hopeful of improving finances through non-tax revenue streams such as advertisement fees and premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR) charges. These sources are expected to play a crucial role in bridging the gap.

With expenditure likely to rise under the new governance structure that replaces the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), all eyes will be on how each corporation balances its books, particularly in terms of revenue mobilisation and spending priorities.

It is learnt that the state's budgetary allocation of Rs 3,000 crore has been divided based on the financial strength of the different corporations. North and West are likely to receive a larger share of government grants compared to East and Central, which are relatively better positioned to manage their expenses through property tax revenues.

IPL 2026: QR tickets, free Metro travel for B'luru matches

No paper tickets; crowd access curbs at Chinnaswamy stadium

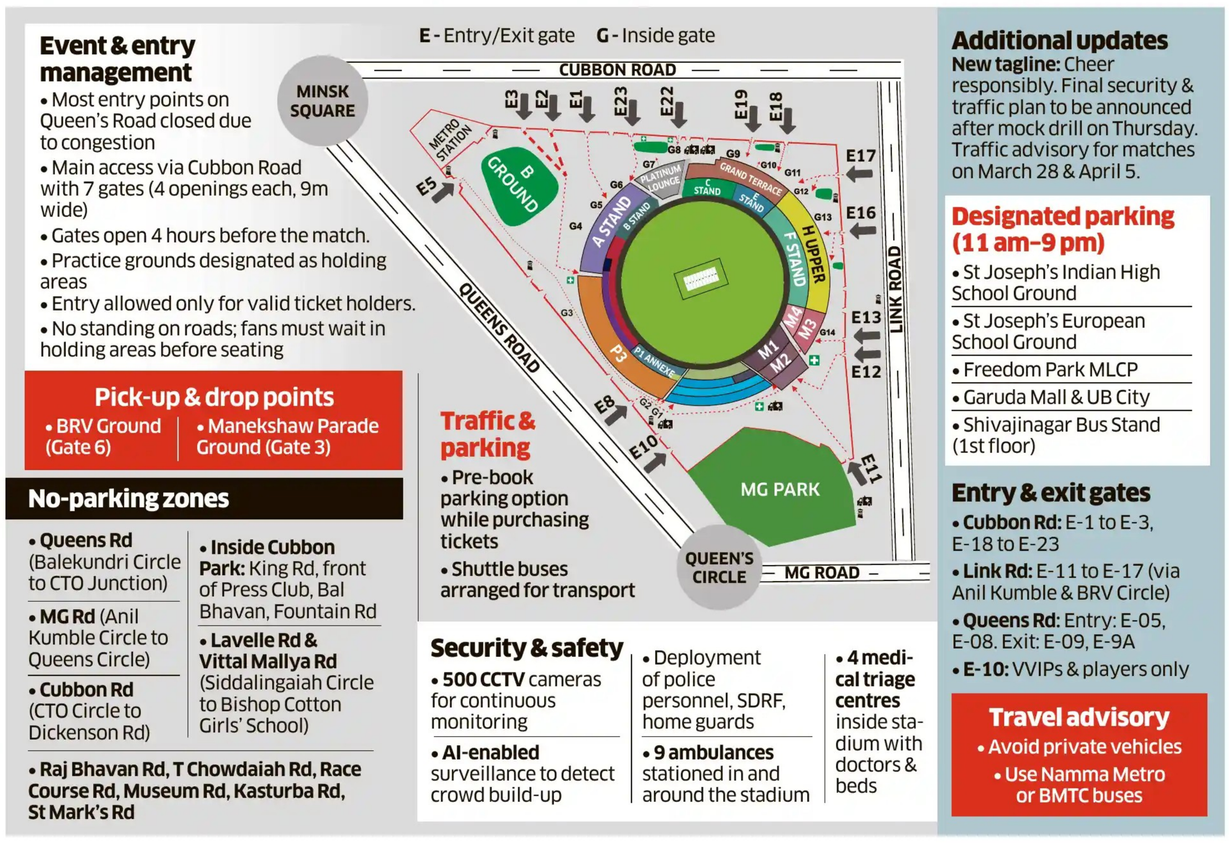
BENGALURU, DHNS

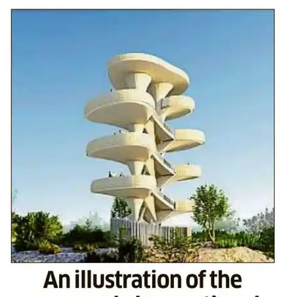
Bengaluru will introduce QR-based mobile tickets, free Metro travel, additional holding areas and restricted public access for IPL 2026 matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, starting Saturday.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said an agreement between the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), and Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) enables free Metro rides with match tickets.

"There will be no paper tickets. Entry will be via mobile QR (M-tickets), sold only on the RCB's official website and app. Ticket holders can use the Metro without a separate ticket. The QR codes on the M-tickets will be visible approximately five hours before the gates open," he said.

Fans are advised to use the MG Road and Cubbon Park stations. Extra trains will run on match days. Tickets will be non-transferable, as decided by RCB, which shared booking details online.


E - Entry/Exit gate G - Inside gate
Event & entry management
• Most entry points on Queen's Road closed due to congestion
• Main access via Cubbon Road with 7 gates (4 openings each, 9m wide)
• Gates open 4 hours before the match.
• Practice grounds designated as holding areas
• Entry allowed only for valid ticket holders.
• No standing on roads; fans must wait in holding areas before seating
Pick-up & drop points
• BRV Ground (Gate 6)
• Manekshaw Parade Ground (Gate 3)
No-parking zones
• Queens Rd (Balekundri Circle to CTO Junction)
• MG Rd (Anil Kumble Circle to Queens Circle)
• Cubbon Rd (CTO Circle to Dickenson Rd)
• Inside Cubbon Park: King Rd, front of Press Club, Bal Bhavan, Fountain Rd
• Lavelle Rd & Vittal Mallya Rd (Siddalingaiah Circle to Bishop Cotton Girls' School)
• Raj Bhavan Rd, T Chowdaiah Rd, Race Course Rd, Museum Rd, Kasturba Rd, St Mark's Rd
Traffic & parking
• Pre-book parking option while purchasing tickets
• Shuttle buses arranged for transport
Security & safety
• 500 CCTV cameras for continuous monitoring
• AI-enabled surveillance to detect crowd build-up
• Deployment of police personnel, SDRF, home guards
• 9 ambulances stationed in and around the stadium
• 4 medical triage centres inside stadium with doctors & beds
CUBBON ROAD
MINSK SQUARE
METRO STATION
B GROUND
QUEENS ROAD
LINK ROAD
MG PARK
QUEEN'S CIRCLE
MG ROAD
A STAND
B STAND
F STAND
H UPPER
PLATINUM LOUNGE
GRAND TERRACE
P3
BY ANNEXE
Additional updates
New tagline: Cheer responsibly. Final security & traffic plan to be announced after mock drill on Thursday. Traffic advisory for matches on March 28 & April 5.
Designated parking (11 am–9 pm)
• St Joseph's Indian High School Ground
• St Joseph's European School Ground
• Freedom Park MLCP
• Garuda Mall & UB City
• Shivajinagar Bus Stand (1st floor)
Entry & exit gates
• Cubbon Rd: E-1 to E-3, E-18 to E-23
• Link Rd: E-11 to E-17 (via Anil Kumble & BRV Circle)
• Queens Rd: Entry: E-05, E-08. Exit: E-09, E-9A
• E-10: VVIPs & players only
Travel advisory
• Avoid private vehicles
• Use Namma Metro or BMTC buses



An illustration of the proposed observational tower on the park premises.

BBP to set up public observation tower

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) will build a public observation tower at an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore to enhance visitor experience and conservation awareness.

BBP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies for the construction of the tower on Tuesday.

The park attracts over 2.2 million visitors annually and the proposed observation tower will be a new addition, offering panoramic views of the forested valley of the park and the Bengaluru skyline, while enabling safe and regulated wildlife observation.

Designed to accommodate 50 to 70 visitors at a time, the structure will include sustainability features such as solar energy systems and rainwater harvesting, reinforcing the BBP's commitment to environmentally responsible infrastructure.

Nandini official RCB partner for upcoming season

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nandini brand by the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is the official dairy partner for Royal Challengers Bengaluru for the Indian Premier League 2026, slated to start on Saturday.

KMF MD B Shivaswamy said that the association with RCB reiterates the federation's support for sports.

"KMF and RCB represent the coming together of two great national brands rooted in Karnataka and we are looking forward to interacting with the passionate fans of RCB during the league this season. With KMF Nandini designated as the 'Official Dairy Partner' of this league, Nandini will be a part of various advertisements and promotional activities," he said.

Rajesh Menon, Chief Operating Officer, RCB, said the association would be special for fans.

"We are delighted to partner with KMF (Nandini) for this season. This partnership is built on shared values of excellence, trust and a deep connection with our community. Nandini's legacy and household presence across the state make this association truly special, and we look forward to creating meaningful moments for fans together through the season," he said.

KMF had earlier sponsored the Scotland and Ireland teams in the 2024 T20 World Cup.

BWSSB accused of unlawful practices, irregular billing

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka Rashtra Samithi (KRS) on Tuesday accused the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) of corruption and illegal practices, including unlawful collection of Beneficiary Capital Contribution Charges (BCCC) and irregular billing.

Party representatives said the BWSSB was collecting BCCC illegally despite a high court ruling.

Following the order that BCCC was illegal and should be refunded, the BWSSB filed an appeal in 2024 and secured a stay on the refund.

"Since 2024, the BWSSB has been dragging its feet on settling the issue and is yet to fill in the gaps in its appeal application. It is only using the appeal as a shield to continue to collect BCCC charges from the public," the party said in a statement.

The BWSSB has also served many residents demand notices for not regularising their temporary connection. These were issued as a lumpsum amount instead of being collected monthly along with bill payment, the party alleged.

Party representatives alleged that many BWSSB engineers were corrupt and recorded wrong readings after taking bribes, resulting in losses to the BWSSB.

"Many engineers have also awarded contracts to their family or friends. BWSSB engineers who should replace meters older than seven years free of cost are now charging the public," the statement said.

Allegations of illegal levying of meter fixing fees have also surfaced.

Adaptation key to tackle climate change: NIAS

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mapping the impact of climate change along with human activities is a critical need of the hour, said Shailesh Nayak, Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies.

He was speaking at the opening of a three-day conference on "Changes in the Hydrological Dynamics of Lakes and Reservoirs in a Warming Climate and the Anthropocene" organised at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

He said realities of global warming such as reduced precipitation, rising temperatures and increasing carbon dioxide affecting photosynthesis must be tackled.

He also stressed the need for water recycling, monitoring its quality, and noted that water demand was projected to reach 90 billion cubic metres by 2050.

The conference featured sessions on drone-based real-time high-resolution data and AI-driven analysis for understanding lake ecosystems, including hydro-mechanical factors affecting lake stability and the potential and challenges of floating photovoltaic systems on lakes.

PIL on Conocarpus trees: HC seeks response from authorities

BENGALURU, DHNS

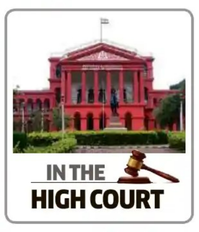
The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday disposed of a PIL seeking directions to remove Conocarpus trees, also known as 'Dubai trees', planted across Bengaluru city.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha directed the authorities to consider the issues highlighted by the petitioner.

"We do not consider it apposite to pass any order in the present petition. However, insofar as the future plantation is concerned, authorities consider the issues highlighted by the petitioner," the bench said, while disposing of the petition.

The petition was filed by Shantanu M, a Bengaluru-based advocate.

The petitioner submitted that the Conocarpus trees were planted by the BBMP's Forest Unit across the city during 2022-24. The trees are found mainly in and around Maharani College Road, near the City Civil Court and other public areas.



Rameshchandra, counsel appearing for the petitioner, informed the court that the Apex Court had noted that the trees are hazardous to nature.

The petitioner submitted that no action has been taken despite multiple complaints filed 15 months ago. It was submitted that there is scientific evidence of health hazards caused due to the trees.

It was also stated that the Gujarat, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu governments have prohibited planting of these trees and have taken up drives to remove them.

The petitioner said the Tropical Forest Research Institute has conducted a scientific study establishing that Conocarpus trees pose serious health hazards.

The trees flower during winter and release pollen, which spreads in surrounding areas causing respiratory illnesses, cold, cough, asthma, and severe allergies. The aggressive root system damages freshwater systems and underground water infrastructure and further destroys communication cables affecting telecommunications, the petition stated.

HC notice to state, police & GBA on school nuisance plea

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday issued a notice to the state government, Bengaluru city police, and Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) in a PIL by the Rajajinagar 5th Block Residents' Welfare Association.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha posted the matter to July 2 for further consideration.

The petitioner association sought directions to consider its representations on issues faced by residents due to the conduct of National Public School, West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar.

The petitioners stated that the school uses a public addressing system throughout the day, disturbing residents, many of whom work from home, and causing nuisance in the locality.

They also said the school is required to give priority to children residing in the locality, which, they alleged, is not being followed.

The petitioners further raised the issue of school buses being parked outside the premises, causing congestion in the area.

They said the school often conducts programmes and parent teacher meetings without prior intimation to residents. During such events, residents face difficulty throughout the day with buses, tempo travellers and parents' vehicles parked in front of houses.

The petitioners said residents have been uploading traffic violations on the Public Eye App, including parking on footpaths and in no-parking zones over the past four months, but authorities have not taken action.

IISc scientists develop new way to move quantum sensors

BENGALURU, DHNS: Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a novel method to guide tiny quantum sensors through thick, gel-like environments such as the interior of living cells.

The breakthrough could allow scientists to measure conditions like temperature and viscosity inside cells in real time without causing damage. In the future, this may help detect key biological markers, including those linked to cancer and ageing.

Studying the inner workings of cells has long been a challenge due to their soft and crowded nature. Extremely small particles, including quantum sensors, struggle to move freely because of resistance from the surrounding fluid.

According to Ambarish Ghosh, Professor at the Centre for Nanoscience and Engineering (CeNSE), this limits the chances of sensors coming into contact with the substances they are meant to measure. "Instead of waiting for the target to come to the sensor, we asked if we could take the sensor to the target."

To address this, the team attached a nanodiamond-based sensor to a tiny magnetic microbot. The sensor emits light when stimulated by a laser, and changes in this light reveal details about its surroundings, such as temperature or magnetic fields. Earlier techniques relied on strong laser beams to move such sensors, which risked damaging delicate cells.

The IISc team's approach avoids this issue. The microbot, made partly of iron, can be steered using an external magnetic field. Its spiral, corkscrew-like design enables it to move forward when rotated, allowing precise control in three dimensions. Light is used only during measurement, reducing the risk of heating or harming the cell.

At such small scales, another challenge is Brownian motion — the constant random movement caused by surrounding molecules — which can interfere with readings. By controlling the microbot magnetically, the researchers were able to stabilise the sensor and improve accuracy.

The team also ensured that the magnetic components did not affect the sensor's performance by placing the nanodiamond at a safe distance from the microbot's iron head.

The study has been published in *Advanced Functional Materials*.

FAITH & FESTIVITY

B'luru Karaga begins with flag hoisting; main procession April 1

BENGALURU, DHNS

The city's oldest and most iconic utsav, the Bengaluru Karaga, officially commenced on Tuesday night with the traditional flag-hoisting ceremony (Dhwajarohana) at the historic Sri Dharmaraya Swamy Temple in Thigalarpet.

The festival will culminate in the grand Karaga Shaktyotsava on the night of April 1.

Addressing the press, C Narayanaswamy, Chairman of the Dharmaraya Swamy Temple Management Committee, outlined the schedule.

Daily special pujas will be held from March 25 to 28, followed by the 'Aarati' on Sunday, 'Hasi Karaga' on Monday, and 'Pongal Seva' on Tuesday.

The main event, the 'Karaga Shaktyotsava', will coincide with the Dharmaraya Swamy Mahanavami Rathotsava on Wednesday. This will be followed by 'Gavu Shanti' on April 2 and the concluding 'Vasantotsava' along with the flag-lowering ceremony on Friday.

As per tradition, priest A Gnanendra will carry the floral Karaga pyramid, representing Goddess Draupadi, through the city's temples.

Workers clean the chariot as part of the Karaga utsav at the Dharmaraya Swamy Temple in Thigalarpet on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

Visit to 26 temples

Beginning from Thigalarpet at midnight on Chaitra Purnima (April 1), the procession will visit 26 temples, including the Halsuru Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Nagartharapete Venugopalaswamy Temple, and Prasanna Gangadhareshwara Swamy Temple.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar are scheduled to offer flowers to the Karaga during the midnight procession.

Special arrangements and pujas have also been organised at the Karagada Kunte in Cubbon Park and the Mariswamy Matha in Kalasipalya.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY
NEW DELHI - 110067
MBA ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from the CAT 2025 appeared candidates to register for admission process in the MBA programme at Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The last date to apply is 31st March, 2026. For more details, visit http://www.jnu.ac.in/abvsme. For any query email at jnumba@jnu.ac.in

CBC 21284/12/0002/2526

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, on behalf of our client ('Client'), are conducting due diligence with respect to the title of the vacant immovable property which is owned by **Mr. SUMAN NAIDU N,** Aged about 42 years, Son of **Mr. Nagendra Yatham,** Residing at No. 144, Legacy Aura, A-31, 1st Cross, Defence Colony, Indiranagar, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560 038 **(Owner)** and which is morefully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter referred to as '**Schedule Property**'. The Owner has represented to our Client that he is the sole and absolute owner of Schedule Property having acquired it as per **registered sale deed dated 21.08.2024** and it is his self-acquired property, he has unrestricted rights of alienation over the same and there are no claims of any kind whatsoever from anyone whomsoever over the Schedule Property except charge created by him in favour of **M/s. Union Bank of India, RLP, Jayanagar,** Bangalore as per registered Memorandum of Entry/Agreement relating to Deposit of Title Deeds on **06.03.2026.**

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below within a period of **15 (Fifteen) DAYS** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owner has any right, title, interest or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of all that piece and parcel of the residential vacant site being the **Western Half Corner Portion of Site No. 7 bearing EPID No. 74-2-7** issued by Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) measuring on the **Eastern Side and Western Side: 24.384049 Mts., or 80 Ft.,** and measuring on the **Northern Side and Southern Side: 15.240030 Mtr., or 50 Ft.,** totally admeasuring **371.6136 Sq., Mts., or 4000 Sq., Ft., in Defence Colony** (earlier known as Binnamangala Layout), Indiranagar, Bengaluru and bounded on the:

EAST BY : Remaining portion of Site No. 7, presently bearing BBMP Khata No. 7/1;
WEST BY : 30 Feet Road and measuring 80 Ft., on that side;
NORTH BY : 40 Feet Road and measuring 50 Ft., on that side;
SOUTH BY : Site No. 42, Binnamangala Layout and measuring 50 Ft., on that Side.

Mrs. Kiran F Vora and Mr. Sandeep Lahiri, Advocates,
Lahiri Chambers, 3rd Floor, No. 19, 1st Main Road, New Bel Road,
ISRO Road, Above Lawrence and Mayo, RMV II Stage, Bengaluru-560 094
Place : Bangalore Date: 25-03-2026

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
CORRIGENDUM
Corrigendum of **Tender No. IPTE-TRS-TM-OH-26-01** published earlier by Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Electric Loco Shed, Ispatnagar, Jharkhand-827010, the **Contract Period** should be read as **24 months** instead of 12 months. Detail of tender document is available in the e-Tender portal and URL of the IREPS website i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** (PR-1340/C)

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221
E-Tender Notice No.:- EL-TRFBay-OT-2025-26, Dated : 20.03.2026 Dy. CME/HQ Rail Wheel Plant, Bela, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online "e-Open Tender" through Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) for under mentioned work. **(1) Name of the work with its location and completion period:** Design, Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning and proving out of 01 no. additional 132/11 KV Transformer bay by the side of existing 132/11 KV Transformer bay, connection with 132/11 KV, 10 MVA Power transformer (RWP Supply) and synchronization for parallel operation with existing power system at MRS RWP, Bela. Completion period 12 Months. **(2) Approx. cost of the work.: Rs. 43935898.43** (Rupees Four crore thirty Nine Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Eight and paisa forty three Only inclusive of GST @18%). **(3) Earnest money to be deposited: Rs.878700** (Rs. Eight Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred only). **(4) Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender.:** Pre bid Meeting on 30.03.2026 at 12:00 Hrs. Bid start from 06.04.2026 on **www.ireps.gov.in.** Tender Closing at 14.00 hrs. on 20.04.2026. Tender Opening on 20.04.2026 at 14:30 or after. **(5) Web site particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.:** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal **(IREPS) www.ireps.gov.in.,** The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal **(www.irpes.gov.in)** for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.
Dy. CME/HQ
Rail Wheel Plant, Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2025-26/126

CCB arrests drug peddlers, seizes 300 kg of contraband

The seized narcotics on display. PHOTO: BENGALURU POLICE

Ganja, MDMA among narcotic substances seized in major op

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major anti-narcotics operation, Central Crime Branch (CCB) police seized over 300 kg of ganja and other narcotics in the city, arresting multiple suspects.

Continuing their drive, the CCB recovered 343 kg of ganja along with other prohibited narcotic substances.

Investigators arrested a key suspect, Ravikumar, 27, from Doddabidarakallu. From him, police recovered 332 kg of ganja, along with a Tata Ace vehicle, and a mobile phone, all worth Rs 3.57 crore.

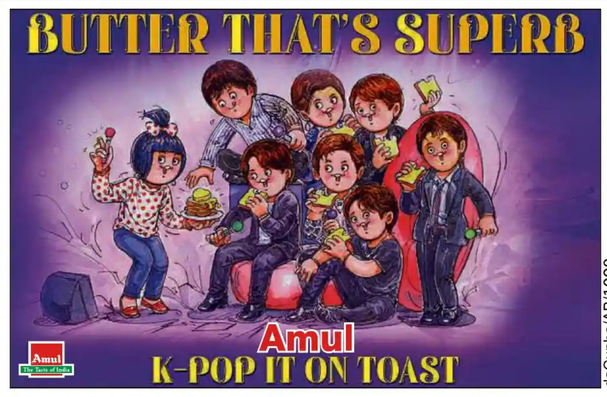
Officers from the CCB's anti-narcotics wing received intelligence that ganja was being transported near the Nayandahalli signal on Mysuru Road. They also received information that prohibited drugs MDMA and ganja were being kept and sold in a lodge in KR Puram.

"Based on this information, cases were registered under the NDPS Act at the police stations, raids were conducted at the places mentioned by the informants, and a total of five suspects, including one person from another state, were taken into custody on various dates," the police said in a statement.

"During interrogation, the suspects confessed that with the intention of earning more money, they purchased the prohibited drugs MDMA and ganja at a low price from an unknown person of foreign origin and from unknown individuals within the state, and were selling them to the public and college students," the police added.

Apart from the large quantity of ganja recovered from a single person, police also recovered 3.912 grams of MDMA and 11.170 kg of ganja separately. The estimated market value of the total seized narcotics was Rs 11.04 crore, the police said.

The five suspects were remanded to judicial custody while the investigation was underway to trace the origin of the narcotics and their suppliers, who were yet to be identified. Further probe is on, the police said.



daCunha/AB/1090

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

Japan to lend Rs 6,100 cr for Metro Phase 3; deadline extended to April 2032

BENGALURU, DHNS

Alok Tiwari, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Takeuchi Takuro, Chief Representative of JICA India Office, sign the loan agreement for the project in New Delhi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will lend Rs 6,100 crore (¥102,480 million) as Official Development Assistance (ODA) for Namma Metro's Phase 3.

The loan agreement was signed in New Delhi on Tuesday between Alok Tiwari, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Takeuchi Takuro, Chief Representative of JICA India Office, according to a news statement.

The loan will have a repayment period of 30 years, including a 10-year grace period, with an interest rate of TORF + 80 basis points for the project and 0.80% for consulting services, and procurement will follow general untied conditions, the statement added.

TORF, or Tokyo Term Risk Free Rate, is a Japanese yen interest rate benchmark.

Of the total senior debt of Rs 6,775 crore approved by the Centre for Phase 3, JICA has agreed to provide the loan in two tranches: Rs 6,100 crore in the first tranche and the balance in the second.

With this loan agreement, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said it had secured all external funding for Phase 3, which was approved by the Centre on September 13, 2024, at an estimated cost of Rs 15,611 crore.

The JICA loan agreement will help the BMRCL float tenders for viaduct and station construction in five packages, permanent way, rolling stock, signalling and telecommunications (S&T), Automatic Fare Collection (AFC), traction and consultancy services.

The BMRCL has so far floated civil tenders for only three packages spanning 18.581 km at an estimated cost of Rs 4,187.41 crore.

Phase 3 will span 44.45 km over two lines and 31 elevated stations.

The Orange Line (32.30 km) will connect JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura along the western leg of the Outer Ring Road (ORR), completing Bengaluru's first circular metro corridor along with the under-construction Blue Line.

The Silver Line (12.15 km) will link Hosahalli to Kadabagere along Magadi Road. Hosahalli and Sumanahalli will be interchange stations.

Phase 3 will have interchange stations at JP Nagar 4th, Mysuru Road, Sumanahalli, Goraguntepalya and Kempapura. It will feature two of India's tallest stations at Mysuru Road and Goraguntepalya.

A 37.12-km double-decker structure (flyover-cum-metro line) will also be part of both lines under Phase 3.

The 28.486-km double-decker on the Orange Line (Delmia Circle to Hebbal) will also be the city's longest flyover.

Interestingly, the deadline for Phase 3 — earlier stipulated at May 2031 — has now been pushed to April 2032

Trio held for cheating man of Rs 28.60 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three people were arrested in Bengaluru for cheating a Koppal man by promising to double his money, police said. The complainant told police that he met and befriended a person in Gandhinagar a year ago. The man, who worked in real estate, told him that a friend needed Rs 50 lakh and the money would be returned double.

The suspects took Rs 28.60 lakh from the complainant after he said that he only had that amount. They later went incommunicado.

A case was registered by the Bagalagunte police, and three suspects were arrested at Junjappa Temple in Shettihalli. Upon interrogation, they confessed to receiving money from the complainant and cheating him.

Further interrogation revealed that the suspects had cheated another person of Rs 18.50 lakh. They spent part of that money and handed the remainder to their friends for safekeeping.

Police recovered Rs 40 lakh and impounded a car used in the offence. The suspects were produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody.

AP man arrested for selling red sanders

BENGALURU, DHNS: Madiwala police arrested a man for illegally selling red sandalwood and recovered 285 kg of the wood worth Rs 7.12 lakh, officials said.

The arrested suspect, identified as Babajan, 38, from Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh, was found in possession of the red sandalwood pieces.

Police said that on March 11, they received information that the suspect was near the Silk Board bus stand with the pieces for sale.

A team of policemen intercepted Babajan and placed him under arrest.

During custodial interrogation, he confessed that he had stored the illegally obtained red sandalwood on an empty plot near Anekal on the outskirts of the city.

Police later recovered the stored goods.

Further investigation is underway to identify the source of the goods.

Prestige GROUP
Add Prestige to your life

This is to inform you that proposed residential development with recreational building project, at Sy Nos. Nos.23/1, 32/4 of Valagere Kalahalli Village and 129/1, 129/2, 130/1, 130/2, 130/3, 130/4, 130/5, 130/6 & 130/7 of Sompura village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru, District has been accorded Environment Clearance Certificate from the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India vide EC Identification No. EC26C3801KA5561267N & File No. – SEIAA 60 CON 2026 dtd. 20/03/2026. Copies of the Clearance Certificates are available with Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and can also be seen on the website of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change at http://environmentclearance.nic.in and http//seiaa.karnataka.gov.in

Prestige Projects Pvt Ltd
Prestige Falcon Towers, No.19, Brunton Road,
Bangalore -560025

ISME Bangalore 20 Years
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE

BBA/B.Com/BCA/MCA/PGDM/Ph.D.
(Ranked 30th all India by TOI)

A Leading Business School requires the following:

FACULTY
FINANCE, HR, IT, ANALYTICS, MARKETING
8+ years of Experience. MBA, Ph.D. from reputed Institutions. Academicians with prior Corporate Experience will be preferred. Faculty for UG (Bangalore University) and PG (AICTE)

RESEARCH GUIDE & FACULTY
Ph.D. with 15 years of Experience in teaching with publications indexed in Scopus / ABDC and ability to supervise and guide Ph.D. students

MANAGER PLACEMENTS
Min. of 8+ years of Experience with excellent communication and networking skills. Having worked with HR Recruitment consultancy or Placements with educational institution preferred.

MANAGER ADMISSIONS
8+ years of Experience in Business development & excellent communication skills. Experience with educational institution handling admission preferred.

Candidates from Bangalore staying in and around 15 km. radius or willing to shift near the campus, only need to apply. Faculty with SC/ST background or residing in Karnataka are encouraged to apply.

Interested candidates may apply to jobs@isme.in
Phone: 080-28019800 | Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru.
www.isme.in

Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium to host two-day workshop

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium (JNP) will host a two-day seminar on Wednesday and Thursday on the theme, "Role of Planetariums in Providing Quality Science Education".

The seminar is being organised to commemorate the centenary of the world's first planetarium, which was inaugurated in Germany on May 7, 1925.

Former Isro president AS Kiran Kumar will inaugurate the event.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

National Book Fair: Jain (Deemed-to-be University); JGI Knowledge Campus, Jayanagar; 10 am.

'Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity': GBA Chief M Maheshwar Rao to attend; TRAI; Hotel Chancery Pavilion, Residency Road; 10 am.

Lecture: 'Financial Literacy Awareness–Foundation for the Future Security of the Young Generation'; Bangalore Science Forum; National College Jayanagar; 3.45 pm.

CULTURAL

Student Literary Festival: Yuvaka Sangha; Yuvapatha, Jayanagar; 10 am.

Drama performance: 'Bloody Night'; Chhaya Bhanu Kala Sangha; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road, 3 pm.

RELIGIOUS

120th Year Sriramotsava: Carnatic Classical Music; Srirama Bhakta Sabha; Srikanteshwara Bhavan, Malleswaram; 5.30 pm.

Lecture: 'Shrimad Ramayana': Abhaya Lakshmi Narasimha Charitable Trust, Thyagarajanagar; 6 pm.

26th Srirama Navami Music Festival: Anjaneya and Raghavendra Swamy Temple premises; Malleswaram; 6.30 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	33.6°C
Minimum	21.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	39%
Sunset (Mar 25)	6:31 pm
Sunrise (Mar 26)	6:21 am
Moonrise	10:27 am
Moonset	11:55 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Download the Saa₹thi App #SEBICheck

India's own
Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)
Cash, but Digital !
Transact just like cash
CBDC: Digital Rupee issued by RBI
✔ Stored in your digital wallet
✔ No need to look for exact change
✔ Works on all QR codes, including UPI QR
✔ Safe way to transact
Have to pay ₹140.73
Diya Chitale,
Indian table tennis player
Download Digital Rupee App
Scan for Digital Rupee FAQs
Download your Digital Rupee App on
Google Play or App Store
RBI Kehta Hai...
Cash, but Digital!
Harmilan Bains,
Indian track athlete
For more information, visit https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/cbdc
Official WhatsApp Nos.
99990 41935 / 99309 91935
Issued in public interest by
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in
Participating Banks: Axis Bank •Bank of Baroda •Bank of India •Bank of Maharashtra •Canara Bank •Federal Bank •HDFC Bank •ICICI Bank •IDBI Bank •IDFC First Bank •Indian Bank •IndusInd Bank •Karnataka Bank •Kotak Mahindra Bank •Punjab National Bank •State Bank of India •UCO Bank •Union Bank of India •Yes Bank
Participating Non-Banks: Cred •MobiKwik

Video ban: Is humour in anxiety mode?

Comedians discuss creative freedom and responsibility following government's action against a video satirising Modi's interactions with foreign leaders

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

A wildly viral comedy sketch mimicking Prime Minister Narendra Modi has triggered a debate about the limits of humour and whether satire, a legitimate form of criticism in a democracy, is being curbed.

The sketch, acted out by two unnamed actors and shared by political commentator-activist Dhruv Rathee, was taken down last week, reportedly under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

The video reposted by Rathee garnered over 15 lakh views on X, and the government's action has reignited conversations about censorship and creative freedom.

Stand-up comedian Ashwin Srinivas says all "satire is rooted in reality", and taking down a satirical video is unjustified. Such restrictions are becoming common, he says. "The lines around what is acceptable are increasingly vague," he says. Comedian Dr Anil Abraham, who posts sketches on contemporary life, argues that in a democracy, restricting freedom of expression is "not the answer".

A screengrab of the video, which garnered over 15 lakh views on X.

Dr Anil Abraham

Cartoonist Satish Acharya calls humour "a legitimate form of criticism in a democracy," adding that banning such videos is undemocratic. "Humour is a powerful tool to question and ridicule those in power. The real target here is to curb criticism," he says.

However, comedian Shrirupa Sengupta disagrees. "The issue here is not criticism but its nature. This video isn't about governance. Targeting someone's personality or background crosses a line," she says.

Shrirupa Sengupta

Anxious times

India enjoys a long tradition of political satire, explored by magazines such as *Shankar's Weekly* and Cho Ramaswamy's *Thuglaq*, Abraham says, observing that the current climate is making humourists cautious.

Satish Acharya

He observes that comedians often preface their jokes with disclaimers, and audiences respond hesitantly to politically sensitive material.

While defending creative freedom, Acharya adds that most comedians, cartoonists and journalists are responsible when they question or criticise the government. "They work within boundaries and are careful not to spread hatred. More than restricting topics, intent and impact matter," he says.

Falah Faisal

What is off limits?

Quoting comedian Ricky Gervais, Abraham says humour can interrogate ideas without causing personal harm. He draws the line at disability and what he calls "blatant misogyny". He is uncomfortable with "excessive profanity," but admits such limits are subjective.

Ashwin Srinivas

Srinivas believes any topic can be explored through humour, with nothing strictly off-limits in principle. "Intent and context matter," he says. With the stand-up scene rapidly expanding, "there are more comedians, audiences and platforms than ever before," he says, adding that exposure to international acts is "broadening audience perspectives".

Graphic novelist-comedian Falah Faisal says the line should be drawn at targeting "those more vulnerable than you". He avoids sketches on topics like sexual violence and queer sexuality. Shrirupa emphasises responsibility. "If we're laughing at someone's background, something is wrong. Context matters — when people know it's not hatred but hilarity, the response changes," she says.

Humour is contextual, and you can't do every kind of humour everywhere, she argues. Her advice: "You must know your audience."

Cost of virality

Srinivas notes that viral content often attracts more negative comments than positive ones. Having spent years putting content online, he largely ignores personal attacks. "You realise not everything will work for everyone, and that's okay," he says.

Abraham's experience has largely been positive, aided by his "sugar-coated satire". However, "when content spills onto more vocal platforms, trolling and veiled threats become more common".

Ironically, negativity boosts traction, he says, as he recalls occasionally responding to some comments to counter misinformation. Shrirupa has faced online trolling and even a walkout during a show on menstrual health. "If something feels threatening, I step back till I feel safe," she says.

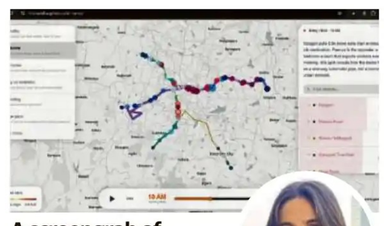
Often, a backlash is created by anonymous accounts. Faisal says, "A lot of the comments are from fake accounts. I just block them and move on. There's no conversation there."

POPCORN

Hot air

People who loved 'Durandhar 2' are expecting a third part, and they are sure it's going to be about the LPG crisis.

And they already have a name for it — Cylindhar. And out there, Rahul Gandhi and the rest of the anti-Modi gang are scripting a different kind of film. You can be sure they will call it Surrendhar.


A screengrab of the website created by Shraddha Kulkarni.

EVENTS

Film screening
'Dalit Subbaiah: Voice of the Rebels', a documentary on folk singer and activist Karuppan Pichai, will be screened on March 28, 6.30 pm, at Suchitra Purvankara auditorium, Banashankari. Tickets online.

Cultural fest
The Bengaluru chapter of Articulate Trust for Arts will present two Bharatanatyam recitals as part of their 'Articulate Festival' on March 28, 6 pm, at ADA Rangamandira, J C Road. Entry free.

Book talk
A discussion around 'The Greatest Stories from the Northeast Ever Told', a selection of 27 stories from the region, will be held on March 29, 6 pm, at Champaca Bookstore, Vasanthnagar. To RSVP, visit champaca.in

Amid Hard Rock Cafe row, bands flag payment delays

The live music venue, known for its music memorabilia, was in the news last week following reports of possible closure

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Hard Rock Cafe, St Mark's Road, is popular for its live music. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Amid last week's uproar surrounding the dissolution of Hard Rock International's agreement with its India partner JSM Corporation, Bengaluru-based musicians alleged that Hard Rock Cafe (HRC) has habitually delayed payments to artistes and vendors.

The cafe is one of the few live music venues in the city. "HRC is notorious for not paying artistes. And we have been dealing with this for years," alleged Chris Avinash, a noted city-based musician who has been a part of multiple bands over the years.

HRC has three outlets in the city — one each on St Mark's Road, at Whitefield and at Kempegowda International Airport. "Internationally, HRC has a legacy of providing a platform for up-and-coming artistes. It's an iconic name associated with music," said another musician who did not want to be named.

Some groups like the folk rock act, Lagori, insisted on advance payments back when they were performing at the venue. "I think we performed about 4-5 shows at HRC, between 2013 and 2017. And because we insisted on being paid before the gig, we escaped what numerous other bands faced," noted Tejas Shankar, lead vocalist of the band.

Avinash claimed that the backlog of payments runs into months. "The longest we have waited is probably four months. And the only reason we got paid is because I was relentless in chasing after them," he revealed. Typically, a reasonably popular younger band that is 2-3 years old draws about Rs 35,000-65,000 per gig, while legacy bands can charge Rs 1 lakh or more.

Over the years, 30-year-old band Moksha have performed at the venue quite frequently and are due to perform there again on March 28. But their relationship has not always been smooth. Frontman, Richard Andrew Dudley, recalls that in the past, he had a very public spat with the management over delayed payments. However, he claims that the new internal management team that took over recently have been more prompt.

A spokesperson from JSM Corporation, which runs the HRC outlets in India, stated, "We have immense respect for the arts and the artistes who have been associated with us over the years. As per our records, all artistes have been duly paid."

After a release was circulated last week stating that Hard Rock International had dissolved its contract with JSM Corporation, the latter clarified, "Hard Rock Cafes in India will continue to operate as usual pending any binding order of a court of appropriate jurisdiction to the contrary."

Techie builds interactive map of metro commute

It is based on data obtained through RTI

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

A Bengaluru-based developer has built an interactive website that offers insights into commuter behaviour and travel patterns related to Namma Metro. Called 'Bengaluru Metro at a Glance', the platform has logged 85,000 views since it was posted on X on March 15.

Shraddha Kulkarni, the 24-year-old behind the project, says the website is designed for anyone interested in the city's metro system, from citizens to transport planners and non-profits. It is based on August 2025 data obtained through a Right to Information (RTI) application. "The data provides a station-wise breakdown of ridership. It can help people identify peak hours at nearby stations, track passenger usage, and better understand the city's transit system," says Shraddha, who develops AI-based solutions for global pharmaceutical firms.

According to the RTI data, Benniganahalli, M G Road, and Indiranagar were among the busiest stations, and together they served more passengers than the 25 low-footfall stations combined. While some stations handled up to 40,000 passengers daily, others saw as few as 689. The Yellow Line operated at 37% of the Purple Line's load. The website also highlights accessibility gaps. Only about 15% of commuters live within walking distance of a metro station.

Shraddha built the website as a weekend project, using the AI tool Claude. Since its launch, X users have commented that the platform can help BMRCL take corrective action. "I am waiting for more reliable data on the Yellow Line to update the website," Shraddha says.

Visit shraddha-kulkarni.com for details.

Annual Ramanavami music festival opens on March 27

SATHVI G BHAT
TEAM METROLIFE

Sisters Ranjani and Gayatri will perform in this edition.

The 88th edition of the Sree Ramanavami Global Music Festival returns to the Old Fort High School grounds in Chamarajpet on March 27. Organised by Sree Ramaseva Mandali, the festival will run until April 22.

The main concerts, featuring notable artistes such as Sandeep Narayan, Rahul Vellal and sisters Ranjani and Gayatri, will begin at 6.30 pm every day. Karnatik vocalist Abhishek Raghuram will perform on the inaugural day of this year's edition. Well-known violinist N Rajam will perform with her daughter, Sangeetha Shankar, and granddaughter, Nandini Shankar. The month-long event will conclude with a special mandolin and vocal jugalbandi featuring U Rajesh and Hari Sivaramakrishnan.

The festival, regarded as one of India's largest classical music events, has a rich legacy spanning decades. It was started by S V Narayanaswamy Rao in 1939 as a three-day event, and its last edition in 2025 drew over 4 lakh footfalls. Over the years, it has been graced by musical maestros such as K J Yesudas, Ustad Bismillah Khan, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Mysore Doreswamy Iyengar, and M S Subbulakshmi. "The festival has democratised (access to) classical music, which continues to be its fundamental idea," said Abhijit Varadaraj, executive officer, Sree Ramaseva Mandali. But there has been a change in the crowd. "We witness newer and younger audiences coming in every year. The music festival shows that young people take an interest in classical music when given an appropriate platform," Varadaraj added.

For tickets and full schedule, visit ramanavami.org

Vocational centre holds mental health campaigns

It reached over 2,500 participants across 22 locations in the state, including Bengaluru

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Seher Hashmi led the mental health campaign, aimed at students, ASHA workers and government employees.

Ajji's Learning Centre (ALC), a vocational learning centre for rural women, conducted a mental health awareness campaign that reached over 2,500 participants across 22 locations in Bengaluru, Magadi and Ramanagara. The drive was held between March 9 and 16, and was focused on students, women and community workers.

ALC was started in early 2021 by Sabiha Hashmi, an art educator. She died from breast cancer a month after the centre opened. It was then taken over by her sister Shabnam.

With suicide rates increasing post-pandemic, Shabnam recognised the pressing need to raise awareness about mental health issues in rural areas.

Led by Seher Hashmi, Shabnam's daughter and also a mental health survivor, and social activist Dev Desai, the campaign used storytelling to connect with participants and also address the stigma surrounding mental health.

"Language was a major hurdle. Hence, to reach out to the local crowds, we brought in an interpreter," says Seher, known for her innovative campaigns like 'Breaking Stigma: One Mile at a Time' where she led a 2,779-km journey on her Royal Enfield (from Delhi to Kupwara, Kashmir) to conduct mental health workshops.

Shabnam explained that they used "lived experience advocacy" as one of their tools. "It is based on WHO research, proving that lived stories are far more effective than data when it comes to sensitising people to mental health issues. Participants valued the speakers' openness, and felt encouraged to seek support. In villages, the campaign also challenged stereotypical beliefs that normalise distress, drawing attention to issues such as depression and household toxicity," she said.

Participants were given bilingual resource folders (in English and Kannada), containing mental health resources, including contact information for Tele-MANAS, Arpita Foundation, and Nimhans.

"Nearly 98.4% said discussing mental health is important, 91% reported learning new information, and more than 92% rated the sessions positively and expressed a desire for more frequent engagements. Alarmingly, 41.5% shared that they knew someone struggling with mental health issues," Shabnam shared.

Shabnam and her team plan to extend these awareness drives to schools. They also hope to create a mental health support hub with bi-monthly free consultations.

Video series on Kannada Jain literature out

Well-known Indian scholar Hampa Nagarajaiah (Hampanā) has started a video series about Kannada Jain literature. Titled 'Niccham Posatu' (meaning 'new everyday'), the series remembers Jain poets (Pampa, Ranna, Ponna) who were the pioneers of Kannada literature. In the series, Hampanā analyses the uniqueness of early Jain poetry, which elevated Kannada from a spoken language to a courtly and literary language. He observes that Kannada poetry, which was limited to indigenous poetic forms like Chattana and Bedande, was elevated to newer forms like Champu and Shatpadi. The 16-episode series delves into early Kannada works like 'Vaddaradhane', 'Kavirajamarga', 'Adipurana' and 'Vikramarjuna Vijaya'.

Episodes out on Fridays on Kathana Studio's YouTube channel.

B'lureans don detective hat for games

Strangers are getting together to solve fictional murder mysteries, often facilitated by a host

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Partyvorous hosted a Harry Potter-themed murder mystery game two weeks ago.

Bengalureans are turning detectives for fun. They are playing murder mystery games at restaurants, offices, homes and even campsites. These sessions are usually led by hosts who set context for fictional crime, drop clues and add twists. At the same time, companies are now selling case-file kits complete with simulated police records, eyewitness accounts, forensic reports and CCTV footage. This format is gaining popularity at house parties.

Sessions start at around Rs 400 and can go upwards of Rs 2,000 with food and drinks included, while kits range from Rs 990 to as much as Rs 20,000 (for large groups of 20-25). Most players are in their mid-20s to 40s, and some games see more women than men. Plot lines are written in-house and vary widely, from the murder of a Bollywood actor to that of a bar owner, politician and journalist.

Grey characters

While organisers agree that OTT platforms have fuelled the appetite for whodunnits, they say the real draw of these games is that they offer a fun way to collaborate and socialise, as well as provide a break from screens.

Jahnabee Adhikari sees it as a refreshing alternative to the crowded clubbing scene. At a recent game in Indiranagar, she and a friend teamed up with 10 strangers to solve a murder set on an island. Each participant played a different character; Jahnabee was the flirtatious aunt of the victim's wife. "We could not crack the case, but I loved the world-building. The hosts were projecting AI-generated images like a blood-stained napkin, a wedding ring, and a signed will as the backdrop," says the technical writer.

She and her partner have also ordered games like 'Clue Conspiracy' and 'Forensic Files: The Bollywood Premiere Night' to host house parties.

Partyvorous, cofounded by Vanshu Hassija, hosts such games almost every month and has seen a 40% repeat rate among customers. The team limits friend groups to three per session, saying the experience feels more 'real' when played with strangers. Their format leans on role play. "It is quite amazing to see introverts take on cunning roles and perform them convincingly," says Hassija.

Games Lab facilitates events, and also sells scripts for groups that prefer to play without an emcee. Founder Yugeet recalls a group that ordered a DIY kit while camping on the outskirts of Bengaluru for a birthday celebration. "I shared the script and guided them on how to conduct it beforehand. I was also available on call during the game. We understand that sometimes people may feel reserved in the presence of an emcee," he says.

Most demand from city

Nikita Agrawal's Gurugram-based company, Crimekit.pro, began selling crime case files three months ago. At 19%, Bengaluru accounts for its highest share of orders today.

Mumbai-based author Varun Gwalani hosts interactive games where he stands among the audience and leads them to the killer through Q&A. His format blends storytelling, improv and immersive theatre. All four of his 'Who Started the Fire?' game shows in Bengaluru last month sold out.

Nikita acknowledges the limitations of replayability and shares that customers tend to pass the games on to friends and family after solving the case. To keep the experience fresh, creators continually tweak plots while Nikita is mulling developing storylines around niche themes such as legal and med-tech crimes.

Online gaming addiction, debts drive MBBS student to suicide

BIDAR, DHNS: An MBBS student, who was caught in a debt trap due to his online gaming addiction, was found hanging from the ceiling fan at his hostel room of BRIMS, Bidar, on Tuesday.

Anishkar Chouhan

The police identified the deceased as Anishkar Chouhan (21), a native of Balathya Tanda in Chincholi taluk.

Police sources said Chouhan was addicted to online gaming and he had suffered financial losses in the past. Recently, he had lost Rs 80,000, that he had borrowed, in the online gaming.

Mounting debts and the pressure from lenders to return their money is suspected to have driven him to suicide.

Anishkar's elder brother is pursuing his final-year MBBS course at BRIMS while his sister is doing her MD in Bengaluru after completing her MBBS degree at the Bidar government medical college.

Bidar SP Pradeep Gunti visited the BRIMS hostel and obtained details from the medical college staff. The New Town police have registered a case and investigation is underway.

Hotelier reeling under debt ends life

BELAGAVI, DHNS: A hotel owner, reeling under debt and who had shut his business for over a week due to LPG shortage, ended his life by hanging himself in the hotel at Hukkeri town of Belagavi district on Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Ramu Halluri (50). He was running a hotel near old bus stand in Hukkeri town.

He is said to have borrowed money from various sources. Halluri had closed his hotel for a week due to shortage of commercial LPG and was finding it difficult to repay loans.

Hukkeri police have registered a case.

Showers lash N-K districts, youth killed in lightning

Rainwater gushes into Belagavi DC's chamber

BENGALURU, DHNS

A youth died while four farmers suffered severe burns in two separate incidents of lightning strikes as thundershowers, accompanied by thunder and lightning and gusty winds lashed several districts in north interior Karnataka on Tuesday evening.

Mahesh Kishan Chouhan (22) of Dhansingh Naik Tanda in Chincholi taluk, Kalaburagi district died instantly when he was struck by lightning. The incident occurred when he was working at his farm.

At Nittur (B) village in Bhalki taluk of Bidar district, four farmers sustained severe burns in a lightning strike. The injured - Suvarna Sainath Karigar, Parvati, Narasing and Ashwini -were rushed to BRIMS, Bidar, after administering first aid at the primary health centre in the village. The condition of Parvati and Ashwini is said to be critical.

Several parts of Bidar and Kalaburagi districts experienced thundershowers in the evening.

The road opposite Moorusavira Mutt in Hubballi is flooded following heavy rains on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Thundershowers, accompanied by thunder and lightning, lashed Hubballi city for over one hour in the evening. The sudden showers caught people off-guard. Waterlogging was reported on city roads and several residential areas following the sharp showers.

In Belagavi, water leakage caused hardships to the staff at the deputy commissioner's office following the hailstorm. Rainwater mixed with slush gushed into the DC's chamber. Khanapur, Saundatti, Chikkodi and Gokak taluks also received showers in the evening.

Thunderstorm, with heightened thunder activity and gusty winds, pounded many parts of Haveri district, including the city. The showers brought some respite from sweltering heat to Haveri, Savanur, Byadgi, Shiggaon, Hirekerur and Ranebennur taluks.

Tarikere and NR Pura in Chikkamagaluru district witnessed heavy rain coupled with gusty winds. The storm brought down several arecanut, coconut trees and banana plantations at several villages in Tarikere taluk.

Hebri town and parts of taluk in Udupi district also witnessed thundershowers in the evening.

Death of vet: Assn demands zoo director's suspension

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Veterinary Association on Tuesday demanded the suspension of the director of Tyavarekoppa zoo in connection with the death of young veterinary doctor Sameeksha Reddy.

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre, who visited the parents of Sameeksha, received a memorandum from the association and promised a thorough investigation into the incident of the veterinarian killed by a hippopotamus.

Shivasharanappa G Yelagod, Association president, said that zoo's director, Deputy Conservator of Forests V M Amarakshara should be suspended immediately.

"The DCF is completely at fault. He has taken her (Sameeksha) in the middle of the night and told her to treat wild animals without providing any protection. Officials are now blaming her to cover up their own mistakes. He should be suspended immediately to allow an impartial probe," he told the media.

"A probe is underway. If any lapses are found, we'll take action," Khandre said in the Assembly.

Rajashekhar S, uncle of Sameeksha, told *DH*: "It was shocking to see officials blaming her to hide their mistakes. Her parents are not rich enough to decline the ex gratia payment. But we demand justice before anything else."

7 teams to tackle war impact: PM

West Asia, From Page 1

He asked the states to take "proactive steps" to address the difficulties of migrant workers besides keeping a watch on black marketers and hoarders who become active during a crisis. Modi said he was in regular touch with the leaders from Israel, Iran and USA – he had a telephonic talk with the US President Donald Trump on Tuesday – as well as Gulf countries discussing de-escalation and opening of the Strait of Hormuz.

"The war in West Asia is a cause of concern. India wants peace in the region through dialogue and diplomacy," he said. If the West Asia crisis persists for a longer period, serious consequences would be imminent, he said.

Nearly 10 million Indians live and work in the Gulf countries. Since the war began, nearly 3,75,000 of them have returned safely. More than 1,000 Indians have returned from Iran, of whom over 700 are young medical students.

"The current crisis has shaken the global economy. It will take a long time for the world to recover from the damage already inflicted in West Asia. Continuous efforts are being made to minimise the impact on India," he added.

'SC status only for Hindus, Buddhists or Sikhs'

Conversion, From Page 1

The court referred to State of Kerala Vs Chandramohan (2004), which stated, if by reason of conversion to a different religion a long time back, he/his ancestors have not been following the customs, rituals and other traits, which are required to be followed by the members of the tribe and even had not been following the customary laws of succession, inheritance, marriage etc. he may not be accepted to be a member of a tribe.

"It becomes clear that once a person belonging to a Scheduled Tribe converts to another religion, ultimately through the passage of time, the customs, rituals and other traits of that particular tribe may fall into eclipse," the bench said.

If it is proved that the person in question has completely renounced himself from the customs, rituals and other traits of his tribe, and has assimilated into the converted religion following the practices and customs of that particular religion, a reasonable inference can be drawn that such a person shall not be considered a part of the tribe, the bench added.

"The determination of Scheduled Tribe status, therefore, cannot rest on conversion alone, but must turn on whether the claimant continues to possess and is recognised for the essential attributes of tribal identity, including customary practices, social organisation, community life, and acceptance by the concerned tribal community. Where conversion or subsequent conduct results in a complete severance from the tribal way of life and loss of community recognition, the foundational basis for Scheduled Tribes status will stand eroded," the bench said.

Towing fee: Rs 650 for bikes...

Towing, From Page 1

While there has been no change in towing charges, the government has issued a notification amending the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024 to formally bring towing charges into effect.

In a letter to GBA's chief commissioner, Bengaluru City Traffic police had earlier requested the authority to provide towing vehicles, stating that unauthorised parking is not just disrupting the smooth flow of traffic but was a matter of road safety. The letter also pointed out issues such as haphazard and illegal parking on footpaths and intersections.

In the past, when towing was in place, private contractors were paid Rs 300 for towing two-wheelers and Rs 500 for cars. An equal sum went to the traffic police. However, in a bid to earn revenue, private operators went on a towing spree, towing vehicles that were parked even in places that did not have no-parking boards. This had led to furore with the then CM Basavaraj Bommai ordering a stop to towing of vehicles.

In the revised system, the civic body will compensate agencies through a fixed monthly payment, regardless of the number of vehicles lifted. Officials said the change is aimed at addressing long-standing concerns that the previous system incentivised excessive towing.

Speaking to *DH*, GBA's chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao said all five corporations are in the process of hiring private operators to tow vehicles. "We will deploy them after consulting the traffic police," he said.

'Big lobby' eyeing Jakkur Aerodrome land: Ashoka

Jakkur Aerodrome, From Page 1

During the debate, Shivakumar said his government is not discussing anything on the Jakkur school.

"Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has reiterated his stand. Even the CM is in agreement. There's no such discussion," he said.

In the previous Congress government (2013-18), Ashoka said a decision was taken to start an 'executive club' on 25 acres of the Jakkur Aerodrome. It was also decided to start a Rajiv Gandhi Aerosports Society there. "Our [BJP] government withdrew these decisions in 2021," he said.

Ashoka said Krishna Byre Gowda, the MLA of Byatarayanapura, where the school is located, had opposed plans to develop the aerodrome under a public-private partnership in March 2022. "Why is he silent now?"

Energy Minister KJ George intervened twice to suggest that the school can be shifted out to make way for a "big sports complex". The city needs a cricket stadium with a capacity of 1 lakh, he insisted.

"When I was the Bengaluru minister, a flyover came up there. Due to this, the DGCA isn't giving a licence citing dangers during take-off. Also, only 25-30 pilot trainers are there. So, I wrote to the CM about having a sports complex," George said.

Ashoka also flagged Shivakumar's recent meeting with Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on increasing building height limits around airports, including Jakkur.

Shivakumar said Jakkur did not figure in his meeting with Naidu. "I sought uniformity as the limits are different in Karnataka. We've introduced a premium floor area ratio (FAR), which can bring money to B'luru. We've sought some relaxation so that people can use the premium FAR," he said.

On the fate of the Jakkur Aerodrome, Shivakumar said he would address this during his reply, which is likely on Wednesday.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
Govetnment of India

This is for the information of the General Public that the process of receiving applications for the PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR (PMRBP) will commence on 01.04.2026 on the National Awards Portal **(https://awards.gov.in).** The awards are given to children who deserve recognition at the national level in the fields of **Bravery, Sports, Social Service, Science & Technology, Environment, and Arts & Culture.**

Any child above the age of 5 years and not exceeding 18 years (as on 31st July, 2026), who is an Indian Citizen and residing in India is eligible for the awards.

Nominations from any citizen will be received only through the National Awards Portal on **https://awards.gov.in.** Self-nomination & recommendations for the awards, both shall be considered. The last date for receipt of online applications is **31.07.2026**. For more details, please visit the National Awards Portal **(https://awards.gov.in).**

CBC 46101/11/0046/2526

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

BESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for Procurement of ACSR Rabbit Conductor.

Sl. No.	Lots	Circle	Enquiry No.
1	Lot-1	Davanagere	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0215
2	Lot-2	Tumkur	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0216
3	Lot-3	Ramanagara	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0217
4	Lot-4	Kolar	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0218
5	Lot-5	BRC	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0219

Bid Documents available: 26.03.2026 onwards. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 27.04.2026, 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 28.04.2026, 17:15 Hrs.
The Tenders can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.,),
Procurement, BESCOM

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501
Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372
No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/TECH//2025-26/3685 Date:17.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document under various head of account grant for 09 works (Indent No: 25282, 25595, 25596, 25597, 25598, 25692, 25693,25694) for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs.14.15 lakhs Maximum 50.00 lakhs Total Rs:334.15 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,Chitradurga as dates below:-
Last Date for information any quarries Date: 25.03.2026 Time 11.00 Last Date for Submitting the tender Date : 26.03.2026 Time 16.00 Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date : 27.03.2026 Time 16.01 Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date : 30.03.2026 Time 16.02
Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.
RO.No.789:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief Engineer, RDW&S Dept.,
1st Floor, E-Block,KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan,
Bangalore-560009. Tel: 080-22053700 Email: cerws14@gmail.com
No. RWSSD/2025-26/SE0850 Dated: 20.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER INVITATION

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Govt. of Karnataka invites short term tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from eligible bidders in two cover system (Technical and Financial bid) **"Hiring of an agency for providing Cab Services to Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department."** EMD: **Rs. 50,000.00**. The last date for submission of bids through KPP-portal is **29.03.2026.**

Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority
RDW&SD, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/6422/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.
No.EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various Heads/2025-26/2130
Dt. 03-03-2026.

Short Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 07 works comprising of approved Building works under 2022-23 SCP/TSP Aradhana Scheme 2024-25 NRLM, 2024-25 4202 State Fund, 2024-25 MLA Grant, 2023-24 CM Spl Grant through KPPP portal.
Indent No.
1.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT25653
2.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT25654
3.RDPR/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT25655
4.RDPR/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT25656
5.RDPR/2025-26/IND13889
6.RDPR/2025-26/IND13890
7.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT25658
Contractors are required to submit the tender before **04-04-2026 at 4.30 PM** by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from **20-03-2026 to 04-04-2026 at 4.30 PM.** Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on **06-04-2026 at 10.30 AM.** Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/1175/KSMCA/2025-26

ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಕಾಲೇಜು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering
K.R. Circle, Bengaluru
No. UVCE/2025-26/IND0014 Date : 24.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

NAME OF THE WORK	Supply, installation and Commissioning of Multimedia Studio for University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, Bengaluru
EMD	Rs. 80,000.00
LAST DATE FOR QUERIES	06-04-2026, 11.00 AM
PRE BID MEETING DATE AND PLACE	01-04-2026, 11.00 AM
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER	09-04-2026, 05.00 PM
OPENING OF THE TECHNICAL BID	13-04-2026, 11.00 AM

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

Sd/-
Registrar (Interim)
University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering
DIPR/CP/6411/SA/2025-26

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders for the following Civil Engineering works through KPP Portal in **Two Cover System.**

Sl. No.	Tender Indent No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender in Rs. / EMD amount in Rs.
1.	BESCOM/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 1064	Providing PUF roofing to the open area and other allied works in first floor of S15 sub division, BESCOM premises at Ittamadu, Katriguppe, Bengaluru.	Rs. 25.42 Lakhs / Rs. 51,000/-
2.	BESCOM/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 1040/ Call - II	Construction of solid block masonry compound wall to vacant land at Gubbalala & Toorahalli layout formed by Jayanagar co-operative housing society, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore of Jayanagar division, BESCOM.	Rs. 67.79 Lakhs / Rs. 1,36,000/-

Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: **01.04.2026 up to 16.00 Hrs.** Last Date & Time for Receipts of Tenders: **06.04.2026 up to 16.00 Hrs**. Date & Time of Opening Technical Bid: **07.04.2026 at 16.30 Hrs**. Date & time of Opening Price bid: **Will be intimated after technical evaluation to the responsive bidder.**

The Details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through KPP Portal by visiting website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after Dated: 25.03.2026.**

For any Clarification contact KPP Portal helpdesk **+91-80-46010000** or **+91-8068948777** or email to **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele.,),
(C, O&M), Bangalore South Circle,
MA Bhavan, 3rd Floor, NT Road,
Bangalore-560 001.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

E-Tenders are invited through GoK e-procurement portal (Website URL: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for the following Procurements.

1) KPCL/2025-26/IND2493, Fuse Link & Terminal Blocks **EMD Rs. 1,800/-**. 2) KPCL/2025-26/IND2492, 8 Way Pendent Box with PB, **EMD Rs. 1,400/-**. 3) KPCL/2025-26/IND2491, High Voltage Insulating Mats & Electronic Feeder Card, **EMD Rs. 5,900/-**. 4) KPCL/2025-26/IND2490, Socket, Saddles, MCB, Fuse etc, **EMD Rs. 2,200/-**. 5) KPCL/2025-26/IND2489, Motors, **EMD Rs. 23,500/-**. 6) KPCL/2025-26/IND2488, Paddle Level switch, Pull Cord Switch, Proximity switch et,c **EMD Rs. 5,800/-**. 7) KPCL/2025-26/IND2487, 4C X 6 SQ MM Festoon Cable, **EMD Rs. 4,700/-**. 8) KPCL/2025-26/IND2511, Transducers for Generator, GT, UAT, ICT & 400KV Line Parameters, **EMD Rs. 11,100/-**. 9) KPCL/2025-26/IND2506, Transducers for DAVR System, **EMD Rs. 1,300/-**. 10) KPCL/2025-26/IND2505, Capsule Type Thyristor, EMD Rs. 2,300/-. 11) KPCL/2025-26/IND2276/CALL-2, Vacuum Pumps & VT Fuses, **EMD Rs. 6,500/-**. 12) KPCL/2025-26/ IND2260/CALL-2, Procurement of Hydrogen Gas Regulators for H2 Cylinders, EMD Rs.1,800/-. 13) KPCL/2025-26/IND2519, MS, HRH Strainer & CRH NRV Gaskets for Units 5,6,7 & 8, **EMD Rs. 1,700/-**. 14) KPCL/2025-26/IND2520, Turbine Stop & Control Valve Spares, **EMD Rs. 44,100/-**. 15) KPCL/2025-26/IND2521, Dewatering Pump SHP, **EMD Rs. 6,800/-**. 16) KPCL/2025-26/IND2522, Wooden Planks, **EMD Rs. 2,100/-**. 17) KPCL/2025-26/IND2523, Gland Packing, **EMD Rs. 5,500/-**. 18) KPCL/2025-26/ IND2528, Turbine & Bearing Spares, **EMD Rs. 66,000/-**. 19) KPCL/2025-26/IND2038/CALL-3, 198 KV Polymeric Lightning Arrestor, **EMD Rs. 2,900/-**. 20) KPCL/2025-26/IND1935/CALL-4, Digital Temperature & Position Indicator and Silica Gel, **EMD Rs. 8,500/-**. 21) KPCL/2025-26/IND2037/CALL-4, Air Cell for GT-5 Conservator Tank, **EMD Rs. 6,100/-**. 22) KPCL/2025-26/IND2160/CALL-3, Power Contactors, Switches & Circuit Breakers, **EMD Rs. 5,900/-**. 23) KPCL/2025-26/IND2531, Resistance Temperature Detector & Resistance to Current Transmitter, **EMD Rs. 2,600/-**. 24) KPCL/2025-26/IND2536, Aluminum Tiltable Trolley Extension, **EMD Rs. 2,600/-**. 25) KPCL/2025-26/IND2537, VHF Set Spares, **EMD Rs. 1,300/-**. 26) KPCL/2025-26/IND2538, Current Transformers, **EMD Rs. 46,400/-**. 27) KPCL/2025-26/IND1882/CALL-4, Electro pneumatic converter for Unit 3&4, **EMD Rs. 7,800/-**.

Last date & time for receipt of tenders : for Sl. No.7 : 27-03-2026, 16:00 hrs. for Sl. No.1 to 6 & 8 to 12 : 30-03-2026, 16:00 hrs., for Sl. No.13 to 17 : 01-04-2026, 16:00 hrs. for Sl. No.18 to 23 : 02-04-2026, 16:00 hrs. for Sl. No.24 to 27 : 06.04-2026, 16:00 hrs.

Any further details can be had from the Executive Engineer (Purchase), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, District, Raichur, Cell: 9449597966, e-Mail id: eeprtps@gmail.com.

Zero FIR in B'luru alleging conspiracy in Ajit Pawar's death

FIR transferred to jurisdictional Baramati police station

BENGALURU, DHNS

A Zero FIR was registered at the High Grounds police station in central Bengaluru, alleging a conspiracy behind the death of late Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in a plane crash.

The FIR was registered on March 23 following a complaint by Maharashtra MLA Rohit Rajendra Pawar, 40, who was the nephew of Ajit.

"The complainant had approached various police stations in Maharashtra, but they had refused to register an FIR. Hence, a Zero FIR was registered in Bengaluru. As per procedure, the FIR was transferred to the jurisdictional Baramati Rural Police for further investigation," a senior police source in Bengaluru told *DH*.

Ajit and four others had died on January 28 when a Bombardier Learjet 45 aircraft carrying them crashed near Baramati Airport in Maharashtra.

Criminal investigation sought

"The complainant had previously approached Marine Drive Police Station (February 25) and Baramati Police Station the next day without an FIR being registered, and was subsequently informed by Pune CID that they were examining only the Accidental Death Report angle. This complaint is therefore filed seeking criminal investigation independent of the limited technical inquiry conducted by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)," the FIR stated.

"The complainant contends that the incident was the result of a larger criminal conspiracy aimed at eliminating the Deputy Chief Minister. The material available discloses systematic violations of aviation safety regulations, deliberate falsification of records, gross negligence in maintenance and operations, and a pattern of conduct that directly and foreseeably caused the deaths of those aboard."

The FIR also quoted a DGCA safety audit report declaring and admitting that aircraft of the VSR Company was found to be negligent, not airworthy and therefore were grounded.

"Aircraft VT-SSK was being operated in systematic violation of mandatory safety standards. More gravely, investigation has revealed that VSR allegedly under-recorded the aircraft's actual flight hours in official logbooks. Credible information suggests the aircraft may have, in fact, accumulated flight hours in excess of 8,000 hours, far beyond its certified safe operational limits," the FIR noted.

Rohit further alleged that the original crew scheduled for the flight was replaced at the last minute as they were "stuck in traffic at 6.30 am" - an explanation he called implausible given the time of the day. He also claimed that the late Chief Pilot Sumit Kapoor, who commanded the aircraft on the day of the crash, had a documented history of alcohol-related violations.

"In the final recorded seconds of the flight, Co-pilot Shambhavi Pathak transmitted the words 'OH SHIT OH SHIT.' Chief Pilot Kapoor was entirely silent, no emergency declaration, no distress call, no corrective action. This complete absence of response from the commanding pilot in a life-threatening emergency is consistent with either incapacitation due to alcohol or deliberate inaction," Rohit alleged.

ROHIT RAJENDRA PAWAR
Maharashtra MLA and nephew of Ajit Pawar

> "The incident was the result of a larger criminal conspiracy aimed at eliminating the Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. The material available discloses systematic violations of aviation safety regulations, deliberate falsification of records, gross negligence in maintenance and operations, and a pattern of conduct that directly and foreseeably caused the deaths of those aboard.

Govt cancels conference on KSOU campus

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Higher Education Department on Tuesday ordered immediate cancellation of the event titled 'Ekatma Manav Darshan, Bharat's Worldview' scheduled to be held on the Mysuru campus of the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU).

The programme scheduled for March 25, was jointly oraganised by Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation and Prajna Pravah.

In a letter addressed to the vice chancellor of the KSOU, the department said that the varsity had organised the conference without bringing the matter to the notice of the government.

Referring to reply issued by the Vice Chancellor to the government's notice, the letter said that the logo of the varsity had been printed on the invitation and there was no reason to accept the VC's explanation.

Vice Chancellor Sharanappa Hasle in his reply, had stated that the university's role is restricted only to providing a venue for the event on a rental basis, as there is a big auditorium on the campus. Even the rent fixed by the university has been paid by the organising institutions.

'No role of the varsity'

He had clarified that the university has no role, even in choosing any guests for the event.

"As per our information even the governor is taking part in the event on the invitation of the organisers. The logo of the university has been used in the invitation just to help the Phd students and university faculties to attend the event. University has not extended any financial assistance to the event," the VC had replied.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

30th Death Anniversary

A.N. MAMATHA
You will remain in our hearts forever.
AKAR
A N Mahavir & A N Navin

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

JOB OPPORTUNITIES
Teachers/ Professors

PRINCIPAL REQUIRED for Sri Annapurna Vidyaaniketan (1-10th Std). Veerabhadranagar, Near PES University, Bangalore- 8095235632, 9449834541

BISHOP COTTON BOYS' SCHOOL
BENGALURU
(Managed by CSI Karnataka Central Diocese)
REQUIRES

KINDERGARTEN
ART & CRAFT TEACHER : B. FA / Diploma in fine arts with good written and spoken English
ASSOCIATE TEACHER : Regular Degree in any subject with NTT / B.Ed along with good written and spoken English

JUNIOR SCHOOL
TEACHER - PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Regular Degree in any subject with C.PEd / B.PEd with good written and spoken English
MUSIC TEACHER: Should have passed music examination in Trinity College of Music, London / ABRSM / London College of Music / Experienced candidate preferred.
FRENCH TEACHER (PART-TIME) : Diploma from Indian or foreign universities or A 2 level certificate examination from Alliance Franchaise or Level 2 certificate in French from the institute of foreign languages, Hyderabad.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEACHER-PHYSICAL EDUCATION : Regular Degree in any subject with B.PEd / M.PEd with good written and spoken English.
CHEMISTRY TEACHER: B.Sc., / M.Sc. (Chemistry), B.Ed. with good written and spoken English

SENIOR SCHOOL
PHYSICS TEACHER : M.Sc.,(Physics), B.Ed with good written and spoken English

ISC
PHYSICS TEACHER : M.Sc.,(Physics), B.Ed with good written and spoken English

Apply to: The Principal,
BISHOP COTTON BOYS' SCHOOL
Residency Road, Bangalore – 560 025.
E-mail: bcbs@bishopcottonboysschool.edu.in
ROUNAQH
Last date for submission of applications: Wednesday, the 1st April 2026 before 3.00 p.m.

HARSHA INSTITUTIONS
24 YEARS
WE ARE HIRING
Harsha Institutions invites applications from qualified and experienced candidates for the following positions

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS
- **Principal - Harsha Institute of Physiotherapy**
  15+ years of experience (Minimum 5 years as a Professor) to lead academics, ensure RGUHS compliance, and drive research & institutional growth (Ph.D. preferred).
- **Principal - Harsha School of Law**
  15+ years of experience with the ability to lead academic excellence and Institutional development in compliance with BCI/UGC norms (Ph.D. preferred).
- **Principal - Harsha Pre-University College**
  Minimum 10+ years of teaching experience, B.Ed. qualification, strong leadership skills, and expertise in JEE/NEET/CET coaching.
- **Vice Principal - Harsha International Public School**
  10+ years of teaching experience, B.Ed., CBSE academics & leadership expertise.
- **Director – Placements & Industry Relations**
  10+ years of experience with a strong industry network, to lead placement strategy, corporate partnerships, internships and student employability across institutions.

TEACHING POSITIONS
Harsha Institute of Technology
- Assistant Professor / Associate Professor / Professor - CSE / ECE
- Assistant Professor / Associate Professor / Professor - Mechanical / Civil
- Assistant Professor - Mathematics

Non-Teaching Positions
- Lab Instructor - CSE / ECE

Harsha Institute of Management Studies
- Assistant Professor / Associate Professor / Professor - MBA, M.Com, MCA.

Harsha School & College of Nursing
- Assistant Professor - Community Health Nursing, Medical Surgical Nursing, OBG Nursing, Psychiatric Nursing, Pediatric Nursing.

Harsha College of Pharmacy
- Assistant Professor - Pharmaceutics, Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Harsha International Public School
- PGT - Physics, Biology
- PGT - Physical Education
- TGT - English
- PRT - Computer Science
- PRT - English, Hindi
- Music Instructor - Drums/Vocal
- Administrative Staff (School Experience)

Non-Academic Positions
- Assistant HR Manager
- Boys / Girls Hostel Warden
- Campus Manager
- Administrative Staff (University Experience)
- Accountant / Senior Librarian (Experience in educational institutions will be preferred)

Interested candidates may share their updated resumes at:
hr@harshainstitutions.com 9035087210

OWN A PLOT IN MYSORE'S PRIME GROWTH CORRIDOR
Premium Plots Near Mysore Airport
On NH-766 Highway – Easy City Connectivity
MUDA & RERA APPROVED
- 500 m from Toll Plaza
- High-Growth Location
- Ready-to-Build Residential Plots
- Wide Roads & Green Surroundings

Plot Sizes:
30 × 40 | 30 × 50 | 40 × 60
Special Launch Offer - Limited Plots
Call Now:
63604 44278 / 63663 84517

GRAND OPENING
3rd Store
MYSORE SILKS Weaver's Seere Utsava By Sulakshmi Silks
Opening Offer 60% off
ON PURE MYSORE CREPE SILK SAREE

Join us to celebrate SEERE UTSAVA 3
in our new store (16th to 31st March)
SULAKSHMI SILKS
Karnataka's Biggest SEERE UTSAVA
Call: 99727 18898 | 93531 38343 | 9886306643 | 96631 27606
Add: No.119/1, Srinidhi Complex, 11th cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003

Graphic Designers
REQUIRED GRAPHIC Designer- Photoshop/ Corel Draw/ Illustrator Experience 1 Year or above in around Rajajinagar. Contact: 9902891620/ 9845579620

Wanted
WANTED BILLING Clerk with Knowledge of Kannada Typing for Publishing Company near Majestic: 9448670282/ 9448467728

REAL ESTATE SELLING
Commercial Land
General
HOSPET- JAMBUNATHANI Halli, Survey nos 114/8, 114/9, 114/10 clear title, 5.26 6 Acres, Growing area with future value appreciation price negotiable. Mr Dattatray 9130031511, dattatraysapare07@gmail.com
Industrial & Factory
Tumkur Road
SALE 10/ 12/ 30/ 105 Acres Industrial, Warehouse, Commercial, Residential Land. Dabaspet Nelamangala. NAIK: 9141326819

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL
Water Proofing
LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

RENTAL PROPERTIES
Accommodation Available
Commercial
4000SFT TOTAL, 1-3 floors, Furnished Office, A/C, DG backup, For Rent up to 1.5L, Negotiable, BTM near Silk Board Metro, Contact: 8050813008

PERSONAL
Change of Name
ANNOUNCEMENT
I, **LAXMAN CHOWDARY NARA**, R/at No.11, Omkara Nilaya, Brindavana Layout, Kanaka Nagar, K. Channasandra, Horamavu Post, Bengaluru - 560043, In my passport mistakely mentioned my Father name VENKATA RAMUDU NARLA and Mother name PULLAMMA NARLA, But correct names are **VENKATA RAMUDU NARA** and **PULLAMMA NARA,** vide affidavit dated 23-03-2026 before notary Uday Kumar K, Bengaluru.

I, PARAMESHWARAPPA C. Aralikatti, S/o. Late. Channappa Aralikatti, aged 54 years, presently residing at No. 203, Mahaveer Springs Annexe, 5th Phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore 560078 and permanently residing at No. 1435, Kolarama Way, Okemos, MI 48864, USA, do hereby state that I have changed my name to Param Channappa Aralikatti, vide affidavit dated 24-03-2026 sworn before KR Ramesh Advocate and Notary, Bangalore 560020.

Change of Name
CHANGE OF NAME
I, **REBECCA SHALINI**, Residing at No. 308, Corporation Quarters, Austin Town, Vivek Nagar Post, Bengaluru- 560047, have changed my name to **SHALINI PRAKASH S R,** vide affidavit dated 18-03-2026 sworn before Notary Harisha G Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **SHALINI PRAKASH S R** only.

Lost
LOST
I, **BRUNDA G** D/o Gopi J.P. R/at #16, 2nd Floor, 6th Cross, Sriramapura, Bengaluru-21, hereby declare that my **original B.Com Convocation Certificates Reg No. C-2037419 dtd 29-06-2024** issued by Bengaluru City University, MLA First Grade College for Women, Malleswaram, Bengaluru, have been lost While Transit. **Finders Contact: 8296022555, 8951061189.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that my client intends to enter into joint development agreement with **Sri. P. M. Mallesh Gowda,** son of Sri. P. S. Manje Gowda, (hereafter referred to as "Owner") for development of the immovable property mentioned and described in the schedule below. The Owner represents that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property which is free from any encumbrance, mortgage, charge, lien or litigation and he has not entered into any sort of agreement/MoU/Deeds etc., for sale/transfer of the Schedule Property. Any person/s having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest with respect to the Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, conveyance, acquisition, partition, transfer, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, encumbrance, inheritance, succession, lease, easement or demand or objections or claims of any nature whatsoever for the proposed transaction shall lodge their claim(s)/objection(s)/demand(s) with the undersigned supported by documentary evidence **within Fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this notice failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction as though there are no claim(s)/objection(s)/demand(s) to the proposed transaction.

SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Survey No. 590, (earlier bearing Survey No. 393), measuring 01 acre (duly converted vide the Official Memorandum dated 05-08-2024 in No. 674214, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District) situated at Devanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the:
East by : Property bearing Survey Nos. 591/1 & 591/2;
West by : Property bearing Survey No. 589;
North by : Road; and
South by : Property bearing Survey No. 396.

Vinay K. S., Advocate,
Vinay Kademane & Associates
307, 3rd Floor, Prestige Centre Point, No.7/49, Edward Road, Bengaluru-560001
Ph.: 080 22863885/49763233
email:vinay@vinaykademane.in
Place:Bengaluru
Date:24-03-2026

CONCRETE PAVER BLOCKS
25% REDUCED PRICE
60 MM THICK HYDRAULIC PRESSED
MIN STRENGTH OF 50+ (N/mm2)

ROUNAQH
Mfd. By: COBBLEWAY | Call: 9845021227

NEW 4 BHK HOUSE FOR SALE
Vijaynagar 4th Stage
30×40 MUDA Allotted Site
West Facing
G+2 Floors
- Ground Floor – Parking
- 1st Floor – 2 BHK
- 2nd Floor – 2 BHK
- Private Lift
- Premium Quality Construction
- High Rental Demand
- Ready for Registration

Call:
77900 88900

RESTAURANT SPACE for RENT
Two Commercial Spaces of 3110 Sft. and 3420 Sft.
available for Rent
next to Majestic / City Railway Station.
Suitable for Restaurant.
For details Contact :
9844045744 / 9845105330

ST. MARTIN'S High School, 7th Cross, Behind Anjan Theatre, Magadi road, Bengaluru- 560023. Require: - Head Mistress & Academic Advisor /Clerk qualified and trained teachers for Nursery, Primary High School to teach all the subjects including computer, PE and Drawing. Preferably ladies. Contact number: 080-23101999, 9916184299, 9591990199.

REQUIRED EXPERIENCED Primary and High School Teachers with B.A / B.Sc, B.Ed / M.A / M.Sc, M.Ed to teach Science, Social Science, Mathemetics, English, Hindi & PE Teacher. Required Librarian, Lab Assistant & Drivers. Walk-in-interview. Contact: Lalith Castle International School, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Blore-98. Mob: 9620464800 Email: lcis.rrnagar@gmail.com

NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL- CBSE,7th Block, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Bangalore-91 Requires qualified TEACHERS with strong spoken English skills for all subjects from Nursery to Grade X. Walk-in on all working days. Contact: 8123030731/ 9986055970 Mail: nirmaninfo24@gmail.com

WANTED TEACHERS ICSE Curriculum ENGLISH BA, MA, MATHS, CHEMISTRY, HINDI & P.E Contact OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL. Srikantapura Anchepalya Near Jindal Public School Tumkur Road Bangalore. Mobile No: 9001111030, 9620075574

WANTED TRAINED Graduates and post Graduates for primary and high school, with Min 5years of Experience with Fluent English. English(MA.B ed) Kannada(MA.B ed)Social Science(MA,BA,B ed) Maths&Science(M.sc,B ed) Hindi(B.A, B ed) Physical Education(C.P ed/ B.P ed) Computer (BCA) Contact: 9632315392 Walk-in for an interview on 6/4/26 &8/4/26 Between 10-30 to1-30 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial High School 4th main road,9th cross chamrajpet,Near Nayara petrol Bunk Bangalore-18

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru

Multiple Vacancy
PAM POWER
A leading brand in the manufacture of Online UPS, Solar Hybrid and On-grid Inverters, and EV Chargers, is looking for the following positions.
1. **GENERAL MANAGER, MARKETING:** 5 to 6 years of experience in UPS systems/ Solar Inverters.
2. **ASST. GENERAL MANAGER, MARKETING:** 4 to 5 years of experience selling Solar Inverters or UPS for industrial / commercial offices.
3. **SALES EXECUTIVES:** 1 to 2 years of experience selling UPS.
4. **SERVICE EXECUTIVES:** ITI / Diploma in Electrical/Electronics with 1 to 2 years of experience in UPS / Solar Inverters.

For Walk-in Interview Call: 9035010265
Share your resume at: pompower@pompower.in
No.75, 6th A Main, 3rd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore - 560 058.

Accounts & Finance
AFPRO A NATIONAL LEVEL NGO requires ACCOUNTANT, 3-years experience with Tally knowledge for Bangalore office. Mail to- aro.blr@afpro.org.

HRD & Admin
WANTED Female Office Assistant Any Degree Knowing Tally, Fluent In English, Kannada, Hindi Around Rajajinagar Contact: 9902891620/ 9845579620

Cook
WANTED A LADY BRAHMIN COOK
To work for a family in JP Nagar, for 3 hours in the mornings only. Salary Rs.15000 to Rs. 20000 per month. Call: 89705 50662

SOUTH INDIAN COOK/ HOUSEKEEPER (Females) WANTED VIDYARANYAPURA Near BEL Factory, BANGALORE. Accommodation, Food Provided 15000 PM. 8884488887/ 9035813667

Marketing & Sales
WANTED SALES Managers, Sales Executives, Telecallers. Opportunity to earn up to 40,000 P.M. Contact 8867627879

General
REQUIRED OFFICE Assistant having computer knowledge Tally, Office Correspondence, Accounting knowledge and kannada Typing. Walk-in Interview between 3pm and 4.30pm on 28.03.2026. Bharatiya Samskriti Vidyapith, 76, 1st Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560018 Phone -7899900241
HIRING OFFICE ASSISTANTS & CLERKS (Textile Export Company) Bommanahalli, Bangalore. Mail: starsilks@gmail.com

Officials taking bribes on PhonePe for e-Khatas: BJP

e-Khata business thriving in Bengaluru, alleges Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka laid in the Legislative Assembly what he said was "proof" that municipal officials were taking bribes via PhonePe to process e-Khata applications in Bengaluru.

Speaking on Bengaluru development in the Assembly, Ashoka dared Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar to suspend the corrupt officers.

"In every ward, there is a gang of 10-15 people that has made e-Khata a business," Ashoka said. "At HBR Layout, one person purchased a BDA corner site in an auction. When he went to get an e-Khata, officials told him that he had a 'B' Khata. How does a BDA plot become 'B' Khata? One official named Ramesh demanded Rs 30,000. The first instalment of Rs 15,000 was paid on PhonePe," Ashoka said, flashing a screenshot of the transaction.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka speaks in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

The e-Khata application was rejected by higher-ups, Ashoka said. "It was rejected three times, even as the owner had paid the second instalment of Rs 20,000 on PhonePe. When he asked for his money to be returned, the official refused. The owner approached the consumer court, but to no avail. He even called up the helpline, but nothing worked," he said. "There's one retired area revenue officer (ARO) named Nanjundappa who charges Rs 30,000-40,000 for every e-Khata application," Ashoka said. "In Kanakapura, the rate per e-Khata is as high as Rs 1 lakh. In Devanahalli, it is Rs 50,000."

Ashoka also slammed the Congress government over infrastructure projects that have been stopped.

"Major projects like the Ejipura flyover, Ullal grade separator, Raja Rajeshwarinagar junction, Kengeri outer ring road and the HMT pipeline circle have come to a standstill due to lack of funds," he said.

"The government claims to have allocated Rs 7,000–8,000 crore for Bengaluru, but only Rs 3,000 crore has been released."

The BJP leader also slammed Shivakumar for not countering Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's comments on Bengaluru.

"Shivakumar called Reddy his brother. But that brother said we shouldn't even look at Bengaluru, and that his city can't be compared with ours. Shivakumar didn't respond to this," he said.

MUDA site case: Private complainant moves High Court against acceptance of 'B' report

BENGALURU, DHNS: The private complainant in the MUDA alternative sites allotment case has moved the Karnataka high court challenging the acceptance of the 'B' report by the special court.

On January 28, 2026, the special court for cases involving MP/MLAs had accepted the closure report filed by the Lokayukta court in the complaint against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his wife B M Parvathi and two other accused Mallikarjuna Swamy and J Devaraj.

Snehamayi Krishna, the private complainant, has claimed that the special court had not considered the allegations made against the accused in a proper manner as the issue involved was not a private dispute but abuse of constitutional office. He further stated that the special court had allowed investigation against the officials of MUDA arising out of the same illegalities. Krishna stated that the denotification of land, its subsequent transfer, and the allotment of 14 compensatory sites to Parvathi form a single composite chain of acts.

It is further stated that by exonerating the alleged beneficiaries, while continuing investigation against the facilitators, the special court had artificially compartmentalised what was inherently an individual action.

The complaint stated that Siddaramaiah and other accused had indulged in illegalities in purchase of the land under notification, denotifying the land and subsequently claiming alternative sites. The lands - 3.16 acres in survey number 464 and 37 guntas in survey number 462 at Kesare village, Mysuru Taluk – were purchased by Mallikarjuna Swamy from the original owner Devaraj and was later denotified. Subsequently, the land was gifted by Mallikarjuna Swamy to his sister Parvathi. It is alleged that Parvathi was allotted 14 compensatory sites in up market Vijayanagar 3rd and 4th stages in Mysuru by exerting pressure on the government officials. In the 'B' report, the Lokayukta police had stated that there were no materials to justify the allegations. The report further said that the alternative sites were allotted for utilising the denotified land. The closure report also said that such allotment of sites on 50:50 ratio by D B Natesh and his predecessors as MUDA commissioners caused huge loss to the government exchequer.

DH DECCAN HERALD | ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

Eduverse™
A Premier Education Expo

Supported By
AD6 advertising

*FREE ENTRY

Bangalore: 04 - 05 April 2026
Gayatri Grand, Palace Grounds (Gate 4)
Hubballi: 11-12 April 2026
Nehru Stadium, J.C Nagar
Timings: 9 AM to 6 PM

REGISTER NOW
Free mock CET & NEET test.
VISION PU COLLEGE BENGALURU
Scan the CODE

EXPLORE A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES.
Calling all students! It's time to shape your destiny and pave the way for a brilliant future!

Join us at Eduverse - Karnataka's most premium Education Expo. Discover a vast array of courses to make the right choice from the various options offered by top-notch institutes. Whether you aspire to be an engineer, a doctor, a designer, or wanting to choose an alternate career option and become an entrepreneur, this expo brings together the best educational institutions, ready to guide you towards success.

COME TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE!

University Pavilion Sponsors
CMR UNIVERSITY · GARDEN CITY UNIVERSITY EMPHASIS ON LIFE · ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education · KLE ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, BELAGAVI · MANIPAL ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION BENGALURU · Parul University NAAC GRADE A++
PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY · RAMAIAH UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES · REVA UNIVERSITY Bengaluru, India · RV UNIVERSITY · SAPTHAGIRI NPS UNIVERSITY · SRM UNIVERSITY AP Andhra Pradesh

Platinum Sponsor
VIT Vellore Institute of Technology

Gold Sponsors
CAMBRIDGE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY · EAST POINT GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS · KAMMAVARI SANGHAM GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS · KLE Technological University · The Oxford Educational Institutions · SHRI DHARMASTHALA MANJUNATHESHWARA EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY / TRUST (R)

Silver Sponsors
AMITY UNIVERSITY BENGALURU · BGU BIRLA GLOBAL UNIVERSITY Bhubaneswar · EAST WEST GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS BENGALURU · RAJARAJESWARI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION · SAMBHRAM INSTITUTIONS

Exhibitors
ABBS AUTONOMOUS · ACS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING · AGI · AIMS INSTITUTES · AMRITA BENGALURU CAMPUS · ATRIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY · DECCAN PU COLLEGE · Dr S.R. Chandrasekhar Institute of Speech and Hearing · IAS BABA · ISB&M · MIT-WPU · MS ENGINEERING COLLEGE · PES UNIVERSITY · RAMAIAH College of Arts, Science & Commerce - Autonomous
R R INSTITUTIONS · SJBIT · SANJAY GHODAWAT UNIVERSITY KOLHAPUR (MAHARASHTRA) · S.E.A GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS · SDM INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY · SHRI DHARMASTHALA MANJUNATHESHWARA UNIVERSITY · UNIVERSAL GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS · VVCE

For Sponsorships & Stall Bookings call: Dinesh - 9986006598 I Bangalore

NPCI भारतीय राष्ट्रीय भुगतान निगम NATIONAL PAYMENTS CORPORATION OF INDIA | ALWAYS FORWARD

Bharat Connect

Pay your LIC premium.
The easy way.

Easy steps to pay

- Open your **preferred app**
- **Search for LIC** under the insurance category
- Enter your **policy details** & pay your premium

Pay LIC premium instantly on your favourite apps.

LIC भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

amazon pay · AXIS BANK · BAJAJ PAY · Beacon International Remittance Partner · BHIM · CRED · CSB Bank · DBS · Federal Bank · HDFC BANK · ICICI Bank · IDBI BANK · IDFC FIRST Bank · MobiKwik · navi UPI · Paytm · PhonePe · TATA NEU

*T&C Apply

IN THE COUNCIL

Portal for MSMEs to help job aspirants

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government will soon design a dedicated portal for MSMEs to help job aspirants.

Replying to questions raised by members of the Legislative Council, Minister for Small Scale Industries Sharanabasappa Darshanapur said that there is currently no such portal or digital platform available for job aspirants in the department.

Govt to renovate Mysuru Lansdowne building

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government will renovate the historic Lansdowne building in Mysuru in accordance with the Supreme Court order.

Responding to a question by Congress member K Shivakumar in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, Urban Development Minister B S Suresha said that the matter is pending before the Supreme Court.

"We are waiting for the court orders," he said.

The minister also informed the House that notices will be issued to those constructing high-rise buildings within 100 meters of the historical buildings.

Like-minded' Cong MLCs hold meeting

BENGALURU, DHNS: More than a dozen "like-minded" Congress MLCs huddled late Tuesday night to discuss the happenings in the party. Government Chief Whip Saleem Ahmed, Nagaraj Yadav, Puttanna, Manjunath Bhandary and others attended the meeting.

Sources said they discussed the urgent need to end the leadership dispute between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar. They also discussed mounting pressure on the party to consider ministerial berths to MLCs if and when the Cabinet is reshuffled.

Lapses alleged in tender for Indira canteen buildings

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP MLC K S Naveen on Tuesday questioned the government's choice of the firm for constructing Indira canteen buildings.

"The company that was awarded the tender in 2017 was again selected in 2023. According to my information, the company has shut shop; awarding tender to such a company by granting 4G exemption raises suspicions," he said. As Municipalities Minister Rahim Khan was about to answer the question, Minister for Urban Development B S Suresha intervened and said, "If you have such doubts, an official will accompany you on your visit to the company that is in Chikkaballapur."

CAG flags low employment, ghost workers under MGNREGA

Govt cites inactive job cards, migration of workers

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Only 5% of rural households were provided with 100 days of work under the MGNREGA between 2019-20 and 2023-24, the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) said in a report. The report also flagged "fraudulent" payments and "fabrication" of records.

The CAG performance audit on MGNREG, tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday also flagged the existence of "ghost workers" and other shortcomings by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) department.

"Not even half of the registered households demanded work during the audit period. Though there was a decline in demand for employment, the department could not meet even the reduced demand," the CAG said. "The number of households provided with at least 100 days of employment during the period was only 5% and a majority of households were provided with only 1-30 days of employment," it said.

For example, in 2023-24, a total of 79.09 lakh job cards were issued and 32.41 lakh households sought work. Of them, 29.96 lakh households were provided employment. Only 0.43 lakh households got 100 days of work.

A file photo of a work taken up under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act. According to the CAG report, not even half of the registered households demanded work during the audit period (2019-20 and 2023-24).

At the state-level, the number of households that got 100 days of work ranged from 0.32 lakh to 2.4 lakh.

Govt's reply

In its reply to the CAG, the government cited reasons such as inactive job cards and migration of workers for the low demand.

Meanwhile, the CAG found that the average percentage of active workers was only 45% "evidencing that majority of registered workers (55%) did not work under MGNREGS."

The CAG stated: "The low percentage of active job cards/workers could be attributable to the existence of ghost workers, failure of gram panchayats to undertake annual updating exercise of job cards, poor awareness levels of entitlements among potential beneficiaries."

In another finding, the CAG said that a large number of approved works under MGNREGA were not taken up apart from many of them being incomplete for more than a year.

The audit also noticed fraudulent transactions such as payment for houses already completed, payment to inelgible beneficiaries and payments without undertaking construction.

Totally, works worth Rs 5,275 crore were flagged by social audits for financial misappropriation and deviation.

JJM: Audit blames state's flaws for low federal funding

'K'taka received only 45% of central allocation between 2019 and 2024'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka received less than half of Rs 24,819 crore allocated under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) due to the state government's "inability" to utilise funds that were already released, the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) said Tuesday.

The CAG report on the implementation of JJM for the 2019-24 period was tabled in the Assembly.

Between 2019 and 2024, Karnataka received central grants of Rs 11,189.37 crore, which is 45% of the allocation.

"The non-receipt of balance assistance is attributable to the fact that the state failed to utilise the available funds and there were delays ranging from 3-9 months in submission of utilisation certificates and audited accounts by the state government," the audit said.

This audit observation could be a setback to the governing Congress, which attacked the union government for not releasing funds under JJM.

"The non-utilisation of funds impacted the state's performance under JJM as it failed to achieve the targets for functional household tap connections (FHTC). The underperformance rendered the state ineligible for performance-based additional funds and a missed opportunity to access supplementary financial resoruces," the report stated.

Out of 72.14 lakh households targeted, tap water connections were provided to 47.62 lakh households (66%) till Novembe 2024. This was due to slow tendering, entrustment of works without ensuring land availability and delayed approvals, the audit found.

In one case, the work of providing tap water connections to 435 households at Inchur, Bhalki (Bidar) was entrusted to a contractor for Rs 146 lakh with a completion target of July 2024. The work could not be commenced as land for the construction of an overhead tank was not handed over to the contractor.

After incurring an expenditure of Rs 60 lakh towards the construction of open well and laying of pipes, the entire work was abandoned.

JJM mandates community contribution for in-village infrastructure.

Against the estimated Rs 1,594 crore, only Rs 22.57 crore was collected. This created additional financial burden on the state, the CAG said.

Impact

JJM helped reduce drop-out rates among upper primary school-going girls while decreasing drudgery of women. "However, its impact on employment and public health remains limited," the audit stated.

CAG REPORT

"The non-receipt of balance assistance is attributable to the fact that the state failed to utilise the available funds and there were delays ranging from 3-9 months in submission of utilisation certificates and audited accounts by the state government.

Rain deficit possible after June-July: Cabinet panel

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state is expecting normal showers during June-July followed by the possibility of a rainfall deficiency, especially in North Karnataka, the Cabinet sub-committee on disaster management said on Tuesday.

"North Karnataka is likely to face a higher rainfall deficit. Coastal regions are expected to experience higher-than-normal temperatures this summer. The intensity of heatwaves will increase in North Karnataka," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who heads the Cabinet sub-committee, said in a statement.

During the pre-monsoon period, 17 districts received excess rainfall, five got above-normal rainfall, six saw normal rainfall and three had a deficit.

"La Niña conditions are expected to turn neutral in the coming months. It's likely to remain neutral until May–July. La Niña conditions are expected to re-emerge between June and August and continue until the end of the year," Gowda said.

During summer, drinking water shortage may arise in parts of 207 taluks.

"Of these, 60 taluks are already facing water scarcity. Officials have been instructed to take precautionary measures to supply drinking water through tankers. Strict instructions have been given to ensure there is no disruption in drinking water supply," Gowda said.

MLCs question nod to Adani firm for limestone mining

BENGALURU, DHNS

MLCs of both the ruling and opposition parties on Tuesday questioned the Mines and Geology Department's decision to allow the Adani-owned ACC Cement Limited to mine limestone overriding the objections raised by the Law Department.

BJP MLC and former minister C T Ravi and Congress MLC K Shivakumar, speaking on behalf of party colleague Arati Krishna, pointed out that the department's decision ignored the Law Department's views on the subject.

"The Law Department has recommended that criminal action be initiated against the company, which has not paid royalty to the tune of Rs 850 crore to the government. But the Mines and Geology Department has not only failed to initiate action, but has also renewed the company's licence," rued Ravi.

C T Ravi

Both Ravi and Shivakumar asked the Mines and Geology Minister to present the opinions held by the Finance Department and the Advocate General on the subject.

"What is the connection between Ambani, Adani and the party that is always criticising them," asked Ravi.

Replying to the members' queries on behalf of Mines and Geology Minister S S Mallikarjun, Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy assured the House that action would be taken against the company.

"Since the company filed a case in the court, and in keeping with the court's order, the government allowed the company to continue mining with the existing licence. However, no new licence has been issued," he added.

Questioned about the government's failure to collect the pending amount for royalty despite the court's orders, Chaluvarayaswamy added, "Adani is not a God here, and we have no connection with him. Royalty will be recovered as per the law."

325 ULBs in state produce 7,304 MT of solid waste per day

BENGALURU, DHNS

A total of 325 urban local bodies in the state (except Bengaluru) collect as much as 7,304 MT of solid waste everyday of which 6,083 MT are processed, Municipalities Minister Rahim Khan told the Legislative Council on Tuesday.

Khan revealed the details while replying to a question by BJP member D S Arun. The minister said that 219 ULBs were processing solid waste and the government has taken steps to provide the facility at the remaining ones, including 27 new ULBs in the state.

"We have prepared detailed project reports (DPRs) for setting up waste processing units at 47 ULBs and DPRs will be prepared for remaining ones. The proposal was delayed since some ULBs faced non-availability of land and some had cases pending before the courts," the minister explained.

Khan told the Council that the government took up Rs 51-crore project for solid waste management under the Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0 project, and the state-level technical and high power committee has approved the DPR. He said that 999 works were taken up under the project of which 542 have been completed and around 467 are in progress.

"Projects for material recovery facilities from dry waste have been taken up at a cost of Rs 259 crore. The government also took up a Rs 31-crore project to establish sanitary landfills (SLF) in 226 ULBs," he said.

However, Arun asked the government to fight the garbage mafia. "Garbage disposal is in the hands of the mafia. A big lobby is controlling it," Arun alleged.

In response, the minister said that the government will not yield to any such lobbies. He said that an order will soon be issued on establishing a scientific waste disposal system.

Now, MLCs upset with officials' failure to give answers

BENGALURU, DHNS

Horatti directed the Floor Leader to submit a list of unanswered questions, along with the name of the corresponding official who had failed to provide the answer.

MLCs, cutting across party lines, gave vent to their ire on Tuesday over the state government's failure to answer their questions. The members pressed for action to be taken against errant officials who have failed to give answers to questions that were submitted 15 days prior to the commencement of the session.

Congress MLC Puttanna called on Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti to exercise his powers and act against officials. "The Chair should not sit helplessly. Suspend a few officials using your powers," Puttanna urged Horatti.

JD(S) MLC Bhoje Gowda sought to remind the House that as many as 153 questions had gone unanswered in the ongoing session. "Leave alone unanswered questions pending from the Winter Session in Belagavi, and those from earlier sessions, officials are not giving answers to questions raised in the ongoing session," he said.

Leader of Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy asked, "Are the ministers concerned so helpless?"

Horatti directed the Floor Leader to submit a list of unanswered questions, along with the name of the corresponding official who had failed to provide the answer. "I don't want to be called inefficient for lapses by officials. I will use my discretionary powers, and take action if answers are not provided by Wednesday. I have also written to the CM about this," said Horatti. Floor Leader and Minister N S Boseraju assured the House that the issue had been brought to the notice of the Chief Secretary.

Council okays bill against 'honour' killing

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Legislative Council on Tuesday passed the Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition (Eva Nammava Eva Nammava) Bill 2026. It was passed by the Assembly on Monday.

Piloting the Bill in the Council, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said: "There are some lacunae in the current laws while providing support to the couple, compulsory interference by the police, speedy disbursal of justice and so on. Since a dedicated law does not exist, the culprits are getting away without harsh punishment and the victims are not being properly rehabilitated."

BJP MLC K S Naveen pointed out that marriage counsellors were necessary to establish consensus amongst the families of the couple. "This Bill intends to support true love. However, many teenage girls are purposely misled across the state. If the government's law helps such instances, it may be of use in hundreds of such cases."

Responding to arguments that a girl, who reaches marriageable age at 18, may not be mature enough to take such a major decision, the minister reeled out statistics and showed that a higher minimum age for marriage was seen in many countries.

In China, Nepal and New Zealand, the minimum marriage age is 20 for men and women, it is 21 years in Canada and Honduras, while a couple younger than 21 should seek special permission to marry in Singapore, he said.

He further noted that the final authority to decide on the basic marriage age lies with the Union government.

"This is not just a matter of marriage. It concerns freedom and fear. Concerns law, societal pressure, humanity and old mindset. Thus, such laws need to be brought," Congress MLA Nagaraj Yadav said.

While some points and concerns were raised by MLCs, the Bill was unanimously passed.

The Bill notes that once two individuals agree to enter into marriage, the consent of parents, family, caste or clan is not necessary. It also imposes minimum five-year imprisonment in addition to the punishment under Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS) for those killing in the name of honour.

SWEEPING CHANGE

Assembly debates if students should clean schools themselves

Hire Group 'D' workers or make kids do it, says Khader

BENGALURU, DHNS

A section of lawmakers, including Speaker U T Khader, triggered a debate in the Assembly on Tuesday by suggesting that schoolchildren should be made to clean classrooms and toilets in order to make them hygiene-conscious.

School Education & Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa said he would welcome this if the Assembly agreed to legislate on this issue.

This came up during a discussion on the Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) (Amendment) Bill, which was passed.

"Schools don't have sweepers. Children are made to clean the school premises. Parents complain if children are made to do it. So, the government should hire Group 'D' workers. Otherwise, provide permission for children to do it themselves," JD(S) floor leader C B Suresh Babu said.

Khader concurred with this. "In my opinion, it's alright for schoolchildren to clean classrooms. All of us, even in the convent system, had to clean our ground and classrooms, even toilets, at 7 am daily," he said. "So, either hire Group 'D' workers or make children do it," he said.

SURESH GOWDA
Tumkur Rural MLA

"There (in Finland), children do everything - from cleaning to fixing light bulbs. We need to adopt this model, which is being followed in other Indian states, too.

Tirthahalli BJP MLA Araga Jnanendra cited Mahatma Gandhi's example. "Gandhi himself cleaned toilets. Are our kids bigger than Gandhi? Let them do it. Let them learn. We've done it, too," he said.

Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader makes a point during a debate on Tuesday.

Tumkur Rural BJP MLA Suresh Gowda gave Finland's example.

"There, children do everything - from cleaning to fixing light bulbs. We need to adopt this model, which is being followed in other Indian states, too," he said.

Madhu, the minister, urged the Assembly to make a law. "There are child rights. We can't go beyond child rights," he said. To this, Khader said: "Then include this (cleaning) under skill development."

'Kannada vs English'

Congress members K M Shivalinge Gowda and Basavaraj Rayareddi verbally quarreled in the Assembly over the medium of instruction in schools. While Gowda said children must learn English in order to progress, Rayareddi said kids taught in Kannada were no less. "We should ban English education. We shouldn't be slaves of English," Rayareddi said. Gowda hit back: "Then why did you learn English? If you didn't know English, would you have become the CM's economic advisor?"

The Centre has stopped funds for housing scheme, 100-day job programme, and water schemes. Despite this, development has continued
When we return to power, we will focus on expanding the financial base through appropriate channels to fulfill promises

Schemes driving TMC's Rs 50,000-cr spend

Just before the poll schedule announcement, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee raised the monthly honorarium for muezzins and purohits from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000. Here is a list of flagship cash-transfer schemes on which the TMC government spends more than Rs 50,000 crore annually:

LAKSHMIR BHANDAR
- **Launched Feb 2021**
- Empowerment of women in 25-60 age group
- **General:** Rs 1000 per month per household
- **SC/ST:** Rs 1,200 per month per household

Expenditure: Revised to Rs 28,615.11 cr in 2025-26

LAKSHMIR BHANDAR
- **Launched in 2022**
- One-time aid of Rs 10,000 to students to purchase tablet/smartphone/PC
- Class 11, 12 students eligible
- **Criteria:** Annual family income below Rs 2 lakh

KANYASHREE
- Annual scholarship of Rs 750 to girls in 13-18 age group
- One-time grant of Rs 25,000 when a girl turns 18, if she is engaged in academic or occupational pursuits and remains unmarried
- Open only to girls from families with an annual income of Rs 1.2 lakh or less
- **Revised estimates for 2025-26:** Rs 1,058.08 crore

BANGLAR YUBA SANTHI
- **From Feb 2026**
- For unemployed educated youth in 21-40 age group
- Rs 1,500 per month to manage basic expenses while job hunting

LOKPRASAR PRAKALPO
- For folk artistes in 18-60 age group
- Rs 1,000 per month as retainer fee
- Rs 1,000 per month for senior artistes above 60

CM GIRL CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME RUAPASHREE
- Lump sum financial grant of Rs 25,000
- Annual family income to be less than Rs 1.50 lakh at the time of daughter's marriage
- **Expenditure:** Rs 693.76 crore for 2025-26

DURGA PUJA HONORARIUM
- Durga Puja committees received Rs 1.10 lakh in 2025
- A hike of almost 30% from Rs 85,000 in 2024

WIDOW PENSION SCHEME
- **Expenditure:** Rs 2,661.12 cr for 2025-26

COMPILED BY: SUMIT PANDE

Trivia

A devout Gandhian, Sarat Chandra Sinha served as the Congress chief minister of Assam from 1972 to 1978, including 18 months during the Emergency. Known for his austere lifestyle, Sinha shunned official vehicles and preferred to walk the streets of Guwahati. For Congress conventions outside the state, he often travelled by train in third-class compartments, carrying his own luggage. Sinha was first elected to the state Assembly in 1946, and went on to win four more terms. He also served as the Assam Congress president for two terms. He quit the party in 1978 to head the Assam unit of the Congress (S), which later merged with Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party in 1999, and Sinha became its state unit president.

High stakes, uphill battle: Polls to put Congress to the test

Party optimistic about Kerala, silent on Assam & Bengal

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

To describe the upcoming Assembly elections in four states and a Union Territory in April as crucial for the Congress would be an understatement. At a time when the party sees winning prospects — though difficult — in Kerala, Assam appears to be an uphill battle against the BJP.

A post on X by General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal, hours after the election schedule was announced, unwittingly revealed what the Congress expects from the polls.

While Venugopal declared that the party would emerge victorious everywhere, he made no specific mention of Assam, West Bengal or Puducherry. Instead, he predicted a "landslide victory of 100+ seats" in Kerala and a "rock-solid" DMK-led alliance under MK Stalin returning to power in Tamil Nadu. Rahul Gandhi, too, was quick to highlight Kerala later, but remained silent on the other states.

The Congress is placing its highest stakes on Kerala, hoping to ride a decade of anti-incumbency against the Pinarayi Vijayan-led government to return to power. But the party lost time in launching its campaign against the LDF, despite having only a narrow window.

Its fear is that a third consecutive defeat in Kerala could pave the way for the BJP to emerge as the state's second pole, reducing Congress to an insignificant role as in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal. A common refrain in Congress circles is that the BJP may tactically vote in certain seats to ensure their defeat.

BALLOT BLUES
- In Kerala, Cong banking on anti-incumbency against LDF
- A third defeat in Kerala could make BJP the second pole
- Setbacks in Assam with exits of Bhupen Borah, Pradyut Bordoloi
- In Bengal, party adopts 'ekla chalo' strategy, contesting all 294 seats alone

But the path to power is also complicated by Venugopal, VD Satheesan and Ramesh Chennithala, all chief minister hopefuls, who made the candidate selection meetings a war zone to fill the list with their loyalists. It could breathe easy with senior MP K Sudhakaran walking back his plans to contest as an independent.

In Assam, too, where the Congress has been out of power for a decade, the party faced setbacks with the high-profile exits of former state chief Bhupen Borah and Pradyut Bordoloi.

The polls will also test senior leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who heads the Screening Committee. Her presence, however, has not helped the party overcome organisational troubles. With only days left for campaigning, the Congress was also slow in sealing its alliance.

The Tamil Nadu results will also have a bearing on the Congress' relationship with the DMK, where a section of the party had demanded power-sharing and even sent feelers towards Vijay's TVK, complicating alliance chemistry.

The bargain marginally increased the Congress' seat share, but questions are bound to arise about how long it can continue to piggyback on the DMK. Both parties are keenly watching Vijay's performance, and if TVK secures a substantial vote share, the state's alliance arithmetic could be rewritten in the future.

In West Bengal, the Congress has adopted an 'ekla chalo' (walk alone) strategy by choosing not to enter into an understanding with the Left. For the first time since 2006, the party will contest all 294 seats on its own.

Lottery baron Martin's son declares assets worth Rs 597 cr

CHENNAI, DHNS: Watches worth Rs 38 crore, 17.5 kg of gold valued at Rs 25 crore, diamonds worth Rs 44 crore. These are some of the assets declared by Jose Charles Martin, the chief of Latchiya Jananayaga Katchi (LJK), who is contesting the April 9 Puducherry Assembly elections from the Kamaraj Nagar seat.

By declaring total assets worth Rs 597 crore, of which Rs 328 crore are movable, and Rs 269 crore are immovable, he has become the richest candidate to ever contest elections in the UT.

Jose Charles Martin is none other than the son of lottery baron Santiago Martin, who purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 1,368 crore between April 2019 and January 2024 and donated them to various political parties, including the BJP, DMK, and TMC.

The cat is out of the bag: Mamata

West Bengal CM slams EC over BJP rubber stamp row

KOLKATA, PTI

Mamata Banerjee

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday alleged that the purported BJP rubber stamp on a communication of the Election Commission proved beyond doubt which party was controlling the poll watchdog from the backseat.

A political row erupted on Monday after a March 2019 letter from the EC was found carrying the seal of the BJP's Kerala unit. "It is now clear from this BJP rubber stamp on EC notification who is running the commission from behind. The cat is out of the bag," Banerjee told reporters at the Kolkata airport.

She held up a newspaper report on the row to back her claims of the poll panel's "lack of neutrality" in conducting the Assembly elections. "There's no need to play your games from behind the curtains. Come out in the open and fight us face to face," the chief minister said, without naming EC.

Banerjee alleged that the EC's move to transfer the Nandigram BDO, an officer she indirectly claimed was close to Suvendu Adhikari, to Bhabanipur, the seat where he would take on Banerjee in the upcoming polls, reeked of a political conspiracy.

"On Monday, the EC reshuffled 73 returning officers of the state. Earlier, they transferred out some 70 top IAS and IPS officers of Bengal, including the chief secretary, home secretary, the DGP and Kolkata CP. And now we know which party is pulling strings from behind," she said.

"This is not a clerical mistake, it was done with a deliberate political intention," Banerjee claimed, refuting the EC's reported response that it was a human error.

She claimed that the EC communication was not meant only for Kerala but was addressed to the chief electoral officers of all states and Union Territories.

Alleging that the development put a serious question mark on the poll panel's impartiality in conducting the elections, Banerjee urged all parties to unite and fight the "attempt to impose one-party rule in India".

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

AIADMK vows free refrigerator for ration card holders

CHENNAI, DHNS: Free refrigerator and three gas cylinders for all 2.22 crore rice ration card holders, waiver of educational loans, one kilo dal and one litre of cooking oil and increasing the 7.5% quota for government school students in admissions in professional courses to 10% are some of the key promises made by the AIADMK for the April 23 assembly polls.

Party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami announced 297 promises, including 16 that were made public in the past two months, and exuded confidence that his government, if voted to power, will be able to fulfill them.

The party has already announced Rs 2,000 as monthly assistance to women, Rs 10,000 as special one-time payment for all families, and free travel for men in town buses along with women. The fresh promises, especially refrigerator, will only add burden to the already strained exchequer but Palaniswami said the promises can be implemented through proper planning and prudent management of finances.

Besides the cash transfer, AIADMK also promised creation of an Anti-Drug Task Force under the direct control of the CM and arrest drug peddlers under the stringent Goondas Act. The manifesto also promised strict action against those who commit sexual offences against women.

Why Sarma prevails in Jalukbari

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

"Ahise ahise Himanta ahise..." (Himanta has come...). One of the BJP's campaign songs for the April 9 Assembly elections in Assam was being played at high volume more than three hours before the chief minister's scheduled Ashirbaad Yatra at Adabari, an area in Jalukbari, his constituency since 1996.

Himanta Biswa Sarma

ASSAM
Assembly Poll

Around 3 pm on Monday, crowds inside the Atal Amrit Udyan and outside on the busy AT Road swelled within minutes. Troupes performing Bihu and Bagrumba (Bodo dance), with men and women in traditional attire, lined the street as drumbeats charged up the atmosphere.

"Dada does not need to campaign here," said Parikshit Das, a BJP worker clad in saffron, as he struggled to control the crowd. "The benefits people have received from his schemes speak for him. Dada is a family member for everyone in Jalukbari."

"Ahise ahise mama ahise..." (maternal uncle has come...), another campaign song played. Himanta, 57, who is seeking a sixth consecutive term as MLA from Jalukbari, is affectionately addressed as mama.

The crowd roared with loud cheers as Sarma's cavalcade reached Adabari and turned towards Pandu, an area dominated by Bengali Hindus.

Jalukbari, with over two lakh voters, has a mixed population. "Dada has not deprived anyone of the benefits of his schemes. Every eligible woman has received Rs 1,250 a month under the Orunodoy scheme. Those not eligible have either secured government jobs, contracts or other benefits. Also look at the roads and basic amenities here — these became possible because of him," said Mistun Barman, a Bengali BJP worker.

In the 2021 polls, Sarma defeated his Congress rival Ramen Borthakur by a margin of over one lakh votes, securing more than 78% of the vote share. His popularity and strong support base have once again discouraged the Opposition from fielding a strong candidate this time.

REACHING OUT

BJP candidate from Ranaghat constituency Parthasarathi Chatterjee greets supporters as he campaigns ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections, in Nadia district, on Tuesday. PTI

FLOWER LEGACY

Communal barb draws a lotus reply

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The lotus farms of Thirunavaya, located on the banks of the Bharathapuzha river in Malappuram district, are once again in the spotlight following Kerala BJP leader B Gopalakrishnan's recent "Hindu MLA" remark during the election campaign in Guruvayur.

Many prominent temples in Kerala, including the Guruvayur Sri Krishna temple in Thrissur, use lotus flowers cultivated by the traditional farmers of Thirunavaya — most of whom belong to the Muslim community.

Lotuses from this region were used for the 'Tulabharam' offering made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Guruvayur temple in 2020.

KERALA
Assembly Poll

BJP state vice-president Gopalakrishnan, who is contesting from Guruvayur, asked why the constituency has not had a Hindu legislator despite Hindus comprising 48% of the population.

The Election Commission has initiated a case against him for making communal remarks.

Musthafa Chakkallaparambil at his lotus farm. DH PHOTO

Thirunavaya's lotus story is now being highlighted by netizens as a response to Gopalakrishnan's remarks, and also being celebrated as yet another 'Kerala Story' of communal harmony.

Around 50 farmers in Thirunavaya cultivate lotuses across hundreds of acres of land, with many being second- and third-generation growers.

Flowers from the region are supplied to temples in Guruvayur, Tripunithura in Kochi, Kadampuzha in Malappuram, and even to Sabarimala. Consignments are also sent to Bengaluru.

'Soil suited for lotus'

Musthafa Chakkallaparambil, a second-generation lotus farmer from Edakkulam village in Thirunavaya, told *DH* that the soil in the region is particularly suited for lotus cultivation.

The lotuses grown here are more reddish in colour and longer in shape compared to those from places like Tamil Nadu. They are widely known as Thirunavaya Chenthamara (red lotus), Chakkallaparambil added.

"My father started lotus cultivation, and I inherited it from him about 40 years ago. Now my elder son is also involved in it," says 59-year-old Chakkallaparambil.

Many of the lotus farms in the region were developed by converting unused waterbodies. Since Thirunavaya is a Muslim-dominated area, most of the farmers happen to be Muslim, he added.

Wayanad landslide township in spotlight

FROM THE GROUND

KORAH ABRAHAM
WAYANAD, DHNS

Rows of newly built houses on the outskirts of Kalpetta are slowly becoming the new address for families who lost everything in the devastating 2024 Wayanad landslides. But as Wayanad moves towards the 2026 Kerala Assembly elections, the government's township rehabilitation project is also emerging as a political talking point.

The Kerala government is constructing a township to rehabilitate families from the landslide-hit areas of Chooralmala and Mundakkai. They've already handed over the keys to the first 178 beneficiaries. According to local leaders, 410 houses in these areas suffered damage during the disaster.

Sahad KK, former president of Meppadi panchayat and currently a ward member, said the rehabilitation plan has been structured in phases to prioritise those most affected. "The government is building houses in the township in Kalpetta and allocating them in three phases," Sahad told *DH*.

"In the first phase, homes were given to families whose houses were partially destroyed. That is how 178 families were allotted houses earlier this year."

Kerala government's rehabilitation project is emerging as a political talking point.

The second phase will include families whose houses were filled with slush and became uninhabitable. The final phase will prioritise households whose properties are now inaccessible or lack basic road access and parking facilities.

Sahad said that the authorities had tried to ensure that no eligible beneficiary was excluded. "As far as the families who have not been included in any of these phases, we have taken a list and handed it over to government officials," he said.

For survivors, the township represents far more than a housing project. Manoj JMJ, a resident of Chooralmala who lost family members in the disaster, said the months after the landslide were among the most difficult his family had ever faced.

"I lost my sister and her family and several others. We lost homes built with our hard-earned money," he told *DH*.

Smitha, another resident who lost her home, said the government's response gave survivors some reassurance. "They immediately arranged relief camps in schools and other government buildings and provided financial assistance. We received Rs 9,000 a month for two members of the family, and that support has continued till today," she said.

Seeing the new houses at the township was an emotional moment, Manoj added. "Usually, when politicians promise such things, it never happens. But within one and a half years, the government fulfilled its promise."

Political sparring

Opposition leaders have questioned both the implementation and the attempts to claim credit. VD Satheesan recently said the houses were built by the government using funds contributed by the public to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund, not by any single political party.

Meanwhile, the Congress is also facing scrutiny over its own commitments. Rahul Gandhi, who represented Wayanad in Parliament, had promised that the party would build 100 houses, while the Youth Congress had pledged 30 more.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Equal at home: Rewriting gender roles

The Supreme Court of India is in sync with the times when it terms household chores a responsibility to be shared between the husband and the wife. This idea has not yet been accepted by the majority of Indian households. It has found credence in the Court's words to the petitioner in a recent hearing: "You're not marrying a maid, you're marrying a life partner." A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta observed this while hearing a divorce petition in which the man sought the dissolution of his marriage, citing his wife's failure to undertake household work – an allegation she has denied. The petition centred on the argument that the wife's action amounted to cruelty. The couple, married since 2017, are parents to a child. A family court granted the petitioner a divorce, which the Karnataka High Court subsequently overturned.

It is noteworthy that a family court granted the petitioner divorce on grounds that furthered a patriarchal understanding of gender roles. When such a view finds acceptance from a judicial forum that works with families, it underscores how socially entrenched these gender roles are. The petition, in many ways, expresses a societal position that draws on male privilege and relegates women to "traditional" domestic responsibilities such as cooking food and raising children. By defining household responsibilities through the lens of partnership, the Court made an important statement against this sense of privilege. Its stance on the subject may also help eliminate misplaced arguments pegged to the woman's "duties" in marital disputes.

The SC's observation on household responsibilities challenges entrenched patriarchal norms

The idea of equal partnership in the family is gaining traction, as seen in the apex court's observation that the times are "different". But wider endorsement will take a steady dismantling of an established order that cuts across social and economic conditions. In the case before the Court, the husband and wife are teachers. The acceptance of this domestic order as natural comes from generations of social conditioning – the kitchen is a space where gender roles are quietly shaped in India, assigning responsibilities to girls and affirming entitlement to boys. This conditioning has also been accentuated by literature, cinema, and even school textbooks. Popular culture and the education system have started to embrace the modest but palpable shift towards a more inclusive gender dynamic. When the Supreme Court observes that sharing and mutual respect should form the basis of marital life, it adds crucial pace to this change.

The costs of copy-paste planning

Bengaluru's infamous traffic congestion has long demanded imagination, innovation, and above all, credibility. What it has received instead is a disquieting pattern of cut-and-paste planning. The latest controversy over a decongestion study commissioned by the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) lays bare the gaps in the city's approach to urban mobility. Substantial portions of this report, prepared at Rs 5.5 crore, appear to have been lifted from a 2022 study by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). Comparisons suggest that 60%-75% of the document has been duplicated. This is the second such embarrassment in recent memory: an earlier tunnel road report had even referenced traffic volumes for Malegaon and Nashik in Maharashtra. Together, these episodes point to a systemic erosion of due diligence in big-ticket projects involving public money. They also raise questions about the oversight role of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), which was envisioned as a single umbrella to prevent this kind of fragmented, unverified planning.

No doubt, all urban planning builds on prior studies. Data, frameworks, and insights are meant to be referenced, refined, and updated. But replication without recalibration is self-defeating, particularly in a city growing as rapidly as Bengaluru. Traffic patterns, vehicle densities, and commuting behaviours here evolve continuously. How, then, can congestion be meaningfully addressed using outdated assumptions? This comes at a time when Bengaluru's broader mobility framework itself is in flux. The Comprehensive Mobility Plan is under revision because its latest iteration relied on travel data from 2014-15 – hopelessly obsolete for a metropolis that has since expanded dramatically. Compounding this is a more fundamental vacuum: the absence of an updated Comprehensive Development Plan. With the city still governed by an outdated master plan, infrastructure agencies operate without a shared spatial blueprint, leading to fragmented, often contradictory interventions.

Recycled reports should not steer strategies for a rapidly expanding, evolving city like Bengaluru

The result is a paradox that defines Bengaluru today: a city of the future being planned with the data of the distant past. Instead of anticipating growth, civic authorities are planning with recycled reports and stale assumptions. Public money is being spent not on fresh thinking, but on reproducing old work. Urban planning cannot be reduced to an exercise in duplication. If Bengaluru is to reclaim control over its mobility crisis, it must invest not just in infrastructure, but in the integrity of the processes that shape it. Otherwise, the city risks building not for the future, but for a past that no longer exists.

BOARDROOM LESSONS

Growth and governance face the ethics test

The HDFC resignation underscores why accountable leadership must confront hard truths to sustain trust

JAGDISH RATTANANI

It is not common for the chairman of a large bank classified as "too big to fail" to quit suddenly. It is even more uncommon to send a resignation letter that raises questions about the bank's values and ethics. But this is precisely what Atanu Chakraborty, the Chairman of HDFC Bank for almost five years, did earlier this month, rattling the markets, regulators, and the bank management. He wrote: "Certain happenings and practices within the bank that I have observed over the last two years are not in congruence with my personal values and ethics." HDFC is India's largest private sector bank by assets and market cap. It is the poster boy of India's retail banking transformation in the post-liberalisation era. A tremor here can shake the entire banking sector and raise questions about wider financial stability. To be sure, no material concerns have been raised, and the RBI has been quick to give the bank a clean chit, citing "sound financials, professionally run board and competent management team". This timely assurance calms the markets and reflects the bank's reputation for good governance and the consequent trust premium it enjoyed in valuations.

Yet concerns remain high, as the questions asked at an analysts' call made evident. While it is too early to speak about likely issues at the bank in the absence of a fuller investigation, the episode once again highlights that reputations built over decades can get sorely damaged in no time when it comes to issues of ethics and governance. HDFC's pre-eminent position showcases the positives of private sector efficiency in a liberalised economy. But this pre-eminence is also why the bank deserves more scrutiny and places on it a burden to transparently discuss how challenges of this kind emerge and how they might be handled. In that sense, this is a defining moment that carries implications for the bank in the immediate, and takes in its sweep the entire Indian corporate sector in the medium and long term.

Indeed, HDFC's reputation has already taken a hit. This has led some voices to argue that the Chairman should have spelt out his concerns with specifics rather than leave with fuzzy pointers that others must now figure out. This position has its merits. But a bigger case can be made for the outgoing chairman boldly airing his concerns in writing and, in that sense, forcing a relook at some of the goings-on at the bank, particularly in a context where such issues are rarely discussed in the open. Moreover, the case of HDFC deserves to be seen in a larger light and in the context of governance systems that are improving but still leave a lot to be desired. This is particularly so at the level of boards, where directors question less than they should, where dissent is usually not the norm, and issues tend to get brushed aside rather than discussed in the open. It is noteworthy that the bank fired three senior employees soon after the resignation, and not before, with reports saying they were removed for their roles in mis-selling bonds in Dubai.

A troubling pattern

Broadly, the reputation of Indian banks has been hit by a spate of scandals, the latest being the alarming case of IDFC First Bank, where employees are alleged to have colluded and conspired to create a hole of Rs 583 crore in the account of the government of Haryana, no less. The bank has paid off the entire defrauded amount, and the case has disappeared from the headlines with hardly any questions on how such a fraud could be contemplated, let alone perpetrated. The recent collapse of the smaller New India Cooperative Bank, a bank rooted in serving the needs of auto-taxi drivers and small traders, was linked to questionable dealings at the very top of the bank but is now almost forgotten as a takeover by Saraswat Bank saved the day and shielded small depositors.

There have also been a string of other large banking frauds, not to mention the shocker at ICICI Bank that led to the removal of its CEO, Chanda Kochhar. Add to this smaller frauds (all frauds totalled Rs 34,771 crore in 2024-25, with a high of Rs 1,54,096 crore reported in 2019-20, according to the RBI's 'Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India, 2024-25') and trust in the sector takes on a worrying dimension.

The significance of HDFC Bank lies in a journey that shows how good growth and good governance can go together. This story will hold in the changed circumstances when the tone from the top is accompanied by swift action on the ground. Tone cannot be limited to deadpan references to vision statements on boardroom walls. Tone also means openly discussing difficult issues, risking short-term discomfort to check violations, strengthen systems, and build long-term confidence. People down the line will get the message when boards are ready to take on these issues in right earnest and support strong action where necessary.

At the same time, the tone from the top also includes obsessive growth chasing and target fixing. That tone can create toxic environments in which bad actors can bring good, even amazing results. They can become the star performers and negatively impact the working culture. But the speeding car that ignores traffic lights will eventually crash. Who caused the crash: the bad actor or the environment that created the bad actor? The answer to that question points to the complexities of governance in an age in which growth by numbers has become the unilateral metric of success.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

AI can drive, but will it survive Delhi?

In traffic and in life, intelligence is often local, lived and contextual

AAYANA RAI BHOJANI

On what should have been a seven-minute ride to the India AI Summit, Delhi's traffic snarl had settled into its familiar state of acquiescence. My cab driver watched the long river of red brake lights ahead and asked with curiosity, "Is there some big AI event today? Everyone is talking about it."

He had questions, and the logjam gave us time. "What exactly is AI?" he asked. "Can it drive a car? I've heard it can – in China. And can it talk to passengers? Because people like to talk." His tone wasn't sceptical; it was matter-of-fact. We crawled forward, paused and then moved again. The navigation voice insisted this was the fastest route. He arched an eyebrow at the screen, the way someone might humour an unfailingly confident, but occasionally mistaken, friend.

To him, technology was welcome when it worked and a story to recount when it didn't. He liked that payments were easy now and he liked that maps helped. But he also trusted what he had learned from years on the road, like which turn behaves differently after 6 pm, which shortcut is not really one, and which signal negotiates with time. Just before I got down, he said, "If AI is going to take my job, let me see it fix my road and traffic first."

It felt like a perfectly reasonable ask.

For most people, questions about AI are rarely abstract musings about superintelligence or sentience. It is in the practical - will it make everyday life smoother? We celebrate AI for speed and accuracy. But the qualities people notice and want most are simpler. They want relevance and usefulness that meets the situation they are actually in.

We have encountered this everywhere. A system is always on, available 24 x 365, and can respond promptly, but does it really answer your question? AI is on the phone when you're just trying to reach customer service and can be efficient, but does it understand context? Anyone who has tried to resolve a billing error, book an air ticket during peak travel days, or navigate a complicated website knows the difference. The gap between correct and useful can be vast.

That is because intelligence, in everyday life, is rarely just about merely processing data alone. It is often in the collective, lived and human. It resides in the bus conductor, who knows which stop is less crowded at dusk. It lives in the resident welfare volunteer who knows whom to call when a street light fails. It lives in the neighbour who knows which office will respond today. These forms of knowledge are practical, situated, and deeply human. They are shaped by experience, relationships, and context.

As AI becomes more visible around us, people are not only asking what it can do. They are quietly asking how it will fit into this web of lived intelligence. Will it adapt to real life, with all its unpredictability? That cab ride was not a debate about the future. It was a glimpse of how regular people are meeting it. If intelligence is going to surround us, the hope is simple: Let it be a bit kinder and a bit more useful.

And if it can untangle traffic snarls, even better.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CBI, ED must probe companies owned by Anil Ambani

I refer to 'SC raps CBI, ED for reluctance in probing Anil Ambani firms' (Mar 24). The CBI and ED, which appear eager to investigate cases involving opposition party leaders, seem to have been handling Anil Ambani and his firms with kid gloves, despite the alleged bank fraud of Rs 40,000 crore involving these firms. A Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice Suryakant has criticised the investigating agencies for their tardiness and reluctance to speed up the probe. The Ambanis' proximity to power may have influenced the investigations. Following the SC's reprimand, the CBI and ED will now likely expedite the probe.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Tackle TB

Apropos '88% tuberculosis patients recovered in 2024, says health minister' (Mar 24), it is heartening to note the high recovery rate in the state. While the authorities' efforts have paid off, it is concerning that 75,318 new cases were recorded in 2025. Preventive measures and timely screening require special attention. Authorities should adopt a two-pronged strategy: increase the recovery rate and raise public awareness about symptoms, early detection, and prevention.
A K Shariff, Mysuru

Plastic shortage looms

This is regarding 'West Asia Crisis: Plastic set to be pricey' (Mar 24). Plastic's ubiquity makes price hikes a pressing concern. A 40% reduction in polymer production will raise prices of common products, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income households. While the West Asia conflict is the trigger, India's long-standing dependence on imported raw materials is a contributing factor. This crisis highlights the need for a revised policy to ensure self-sufficiency in raw materials.
Sweety Ghosh, Bengaluru

India should lead

The escalating West Asia conflict is a grave concern, affecting global peace, trade, and human lives. India has both the responsibility and capability to play a constructive role. With its strengthened diplomatic ties and neutral stance, India is uniquely positioned to mediate peaceful dialogue. India should demonstrate its growing global leadership.
K R Gagan, Tumakuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

There is no selfishness in this. I am a neo-polity culturist and stand with them (DMK). I am shouldering my responsibility, and my promise, as I told them, will be kept. We will support them strongly from the outside...
Kamal Haasan, MNM Chief

Politics is the art of making your selfish desires seem like the national interest.
Thomas Sowell

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Changing Nepal signals a regional reset

With pragmatic diplomacy, the country may leverage great-power competition to enhance its strategic autonomy

K S TOMAR

The swearing-in of Balendra Shah on March 27 as Nepal's Prime Minister marks a moment of geopolitical consequence that extends beyond Kathmandu. Positioned between two major powers, Nepal has long balanced competing strategic pressures. The arrival of a non-ideological, post-communist leadership introduces a new variable – one that could redefine alignments across South Asia at a time of intensifying regional competition.

This transition coincides with a broader geopolitical churn driven by infrastructure rivalries, supply-chain realignments, and sharpening great-power contestation. Nepal's shift away from entrenched ideological blocs towards a pragmatic framework suggests an emerging doctrine of calibrated neutrality. Its implications are immediate: a reworking of ties between Nepal and India, a recalibration of China's regional strategy, and a renewed opening for the US.

The cumulative effect points towards a more competitive yet balanced regional order. Nepal is moving towards simultaneous engagement with multiple powers, extracting economic benefits while avoiding binding commitments.

This approach produces three outcomes. First, it intensifies competition among the external actors, particularly in the sectors of infrastructure and energy. Second, it enhances Nepal's bargaining capacity, enabling better negotiation terms. Third, it prevents any single power from achieving overwhelming influence, contributing to stability. However, this model remains fragile. It demands policy coherence, institutional capacity, and diplomatic precision. Any internal instability could weaken the country's position and reopen space for external dominance.

The decline of communist dominance marks a structural break in Nepal's foreign policy orientation. For over a decade, Kathmandu's political establishment had tilted toward Beijing, embedding Nepal within China's expanding strategic architecture. That phase is now under reassessment.

Shah's leadership signals a move towards strategic autonomy, where external engagement is driven less by ideology and more by economic and security calculations. This reduces predictability for external actors. Nepal is no longer anchored within any single sphere of influence; it is an active balancer seeking flexibility.

For the region, this introduces both opportunity and uncertainty. While it reduces the risk of overt alignment, it increases competitive engagement as multiple powers seek influence in Kathmandu.

India: strategic space reopens

For India, the transition creates a significant geopolitical opening. Bilateral ties had come under strain in recent years, shaped by boundary disputes and Kathmandu's outreach towards Beijing. That phase constrained India's room for manoeuvre in its immediate neighbourhood. The new leadership offers a chance to restore equilibrium. A less ideologically driven government is likely to prioritise economic outcomes over political signalling, aligning with India's focus on connectivity, energy integration, and infrastructure.

In geopolitical terms, India may regain strategic space in Nepal without overt contestation. This could translate into deeper energy partnerships and expanded transit corridors, strengthening regional integration. However, this window depends on sustained delivery rather than diplomatic intent alone.

China faces a more complex recalibration. Its earlier advantage rested on strong political linkages with communist forces and large-scale infrastructure ambitions. The erosion of that political base alters the landscape.

The likely shift will be from politically anchored influence to economically driven engagement. Beijing may prioritise selective projects while avoiding overt strategic footprints that could trigger resistance. Financing models and project execution are likely to be recalibrated to retain credibility.

Yet China's leverage remains considerable. Its capacity to deploy capital and build infrastructure ensures continued relevance. The difference is that the influence will now be contested rather than assured.

For the US, the evolving landscape presents an opening to expand its role. Washington's objective of countering Chinese influence in the region intersects with Nepal's search for diversified partnerships.

Under President Donald Trump, the engagement is likely to be targeted and outcome-driven. The Millennium Challenge Corporation's Nepal Compact provides a ready platform to scale involvement in infrastructure and economic reform.

For Nepal, the outcome is diversification – reducing dependence on the immediate neighbours while broadening its strategic options. However, Kathmandu is unlikely to permit overt alignment, keeping partnerships carefully balanced.

Nepal's transition marks the beginning of a strategic phase, creating opportunities while increasing complexity.

For Kathmandu, the challenge is to convert this moment into a durable advantage – leveraging competition without becoming its arena. For the region, Nepal's recalibration signals a broader trend: smaller states asserting agency amid great-power rivalry. The direction is clear; the outcome will depend on execution.

(The writer is a strategic affairs columnist and senior political analyst based in Shimla)

Can Iranian women take back their fundamental rights now?

SHUCHI SRIVASTAVA

As war rages in the Middle East, with Iran, Israel and the US locked in a widening and dangerous confrontation, it is worth examining what it could mean for Iran's extraordinarily brave women, who have long protested the country's abysmal record on women's rights under the Khamenei regime. Their struggle now faces a grave setback, with fears that any succession under Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei would merely continue a grim continuum of oppression.

These fears are not unfounded. Earlier this week, in the northern Qom province, Iran executed three men accused of killing police officers during anti-government protests in January 2026. Among them was teenage wrestler Saleh Mohammadi. Rights groups allege that the confessions were extracted under torture and that the men were denied a fair trial.

In conversations with Iranian women who participated in the uprisings against the Khamenei regime in September 2022 and January 2026, a clear pattern emerges: the executions are seen as instruments of fear and retaliation, particularly as the regime appears weakened. Many believe the Khamenei regime has lost its legitimacy by repeatedly denying rights and responding with violent crackdowns. "We, in 2026, are not as free as our mothers and grandmothers were in 1936 under the Pahlavi rule," said Sharareh Rafiei, a teacher now based in Malaysia who left Iran 14 years ago. She pointed to an earlier era under the Pahlavi monarchy, when women had greater access to education and employment and legal reforms had begun to curb practices such as arbitrary divorce, polygamy and child marriage. It was a progressive monarchy for its time, that held its women in high regard. In 1936, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the founder of the Pahlavi dynasty had outlawed traditional Islamic veils, scarves and *chador*.

Cut to the present. Women in Iran must adhere to a strict dress code from the age of nine, requiring *hijab* in public. Violations can invite fines, arrest, or corporal punishment. Girls can be married at 13 or even younger with the consent of a judge. Women face extensive legal and social restrictions: a ban on co-ed schools and studying engineering, nuclear physics and computer science; barriers to serving as judges; and laws that enable husbands to restrict their movement or employment. In family courts, a woman's testimony can carry less weight than a man's, and women can be flogged or given a death sentence for adultery.

"We refuse to live under this regime anymore, and they have massacred us for protesting. We did not want this war, but what choice do we have, as this regime refused to reform or leave?" Rafiei said when asked about the fraught question of whether external, unlawful, and unprovoked conflict can catalyse internal political and social change.

Another Iranian woman living abroad, who requested anonymity, expressed a similar desperation: "We have no other choice but to hope that this war ends the Khamenei regime. Since 2022, we have been demanding our rights and faced brutal repression. Just earlier this year, when there was no war, 40,000 Iranians were killed for protesting."

In January 2026, widespread protests erupted amid severe economic crisis and curtailed civil liberties. Iranian women became the face of resistance. Images of defiance spread rapidly, even as the State responded with force. Security agencies, including the IRGC and Basij militias, were reported to have fired indiscriminately into crowds, flogged unarmed protestors, and used tear gas to disrupt protests. Rights organisations like Amnesty International have reported widespread detentions, disappearance and massacres in cities like Rasht and Fardis.

"I was in Kerman, and I saw what the regime did to the protestors," Rafiei recalled. "They shot them in the head, intimidated doctors, and used tear gas so intensely it caused severe injuries and oozing blisters. After Mahsa Amini's death, we wanted the regime to change its policies. This time, we wanted the regime gone."

The September 2022 protests, sparked by the death of 22-year-old Jina Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iran's morality police, Gasht-E-Ershad, for not wearing a *hijab* in public, marked a turning point. Women led from the front – chopping their hair and burning their headscarves. Women as young as 15 and as old as 80 led rallies bareheaded and went chin-to-chin with heavily armed security forces, chanting, "Woman, Life, Freedom". The State responded with alarming brutality. Armed forces fired live ammunition, metal pellets and tear gas into crowds across Iranian cities. Hundreds were killed and thousands arrested. Several schoolgirls were even poisoned as 'revenge' for their role in the protests.

A dystopian nightmare that needs to end, and Iran's women must be free. The question is how? Given that Khamenei successors are not giving up without a vicious dogfight when it's clear that at least ideologically their time should be up.

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based freelance journalist and teaches journalism at Christ University)

The US President postponed his threat to strike power plants in Iran, citing "productive conversations" with the Iranians. But officials said the talks were in an early stage

Ships anchored in Muscat, Oman, on Monday, as the Strait of Hormuz remained largely closed to shipping traffic. NYT

Between threat and talk, Trump finds an off-ramp with Iran

TYLER PAGER, DAVID E. SANGER AND FARNAZ FASSIHI

President Donald Trump seized on initial contacts between Iranian and US officials to back away Monday from his threat to strike power plants in Iran, declaring that the countries had begun "productive conversations" for the first time since the war began more than three weeks ago.

Iranian officials publicly denied that any negotiations about terms to end the war were underway, and US officials said the contacts were in a very early stage and not substantive.

But Trump used the opening of even an early dialogue as an off-ramp from the threat he issued Saturday to attack Iran's power plants in retribution for the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran had vowed not to capitulate, and the 48-hour deadline Trump had set would have expired Monday.

Trump said he would now extend his deadline to Friday to give the talks time to proceed, setting off a flurry of diplomacy by a number of nations seeking to nurture the talks. It remained unclear, though, how seriously the White House was taking the potential for a breakthrough in a conflict that has seen both sides escalate for weeks.

"We're doing a five-day period," Trump told reporters Monday about his pause on hitting Iranian power plants, targets that are forbidden under most circumstances under the Geneva Conventions. "We'll see how that goes, and if it goes well, we're going to end up with settling this. Otherwise, we'll just keep bombing our little hearts out."

Even as Trump retreated from one military option, US and Israeli officials said they were continuing to carry out other strikes against Iran and more US military assets were headed to the region. Officials said Trump was still weighing more aggressive operations, including one to seize Kharg Island, Iran's main oil export hub, and another to send ground forces into Iran to secure highly enriched uranium.

Trump on Monday provided few details of the conversations with Iran beyond saying Jared Kushner, his son-in-law, and Steve Witkoff, his special envoy, were leading the negotiations. He said they were communicating directly with one of Iran's leaders, without naming the person. US and Iranian officials familiar with the conversations, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive talks, said Witkoff has had direct communication with Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, in recent days.

The president said the United States was still demanding an end to Iranian nuclear enrichment and elimination of all of the country's uranium stockpiles that could be used to one day make a bomb, terms that Iran had previously rejected. It was the breakdown of diplomatic negotiations between Kushner, Witkoff and Araghchi that led to the United States and Israel launching strikes against Iran at the end of February.

Iranian officials denied Monday that they were negotiating with the United States, and Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the speaker of Iran's parliament, wrote on social media that Trump's comments were an attempt to "escape the quagmire in which the US and Israel are trapped."

In interviews, four Iranian officials said that the messages passed in the past few days through intermediaries and in direct conversations with the Americans were essentially probes on how to de-escalate the conflict, with the goal of averting a spiralling escalation, including attacks on crucial energy infrastructure.

The officials said that Araghchi told Witkoff that Iran was not interested in a temporary ceasefire and wanted a sustainable peace deal, with guarantees that the United States and Israel would not attack it again. The officials said the Iranians also sought specific economic sanctions relief from Washington, a topic that, in negotiations before the war, US officials said would happen only after Iran delivered on its nuclear and other commitments in any agreement.

But Trump's characterisation of these as "productive conversations" seemed to overstate the current state of the talks.

Ali Vaez, the Iran project director at the International Crisis Group, said the Iranians would not engage in a high-level meeting before knowing that the United States was stepping away from its "maximalist" demands.

"Not attacking energy infrastructure is a low bar," he said. "The terms of a ceasefire, or an agreement that would resolve the longer-term problems including the fate of the stockpile or reopening of the strait — none of those things are anywhere close to the finish line right now."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he spoke with Trump on Monday and that Trump believed it was possible to "leverage" their military achievements against Iran to "realise the objectives of the war in an agreement."

But Netanyahu, whose strategy has sometimes been at odds with Trump's in recent weeks, made it clear he had no intention of letting up. "We are smashing the missile programme and the nuclear programme, and we continue to deal severe blows to Hezbollah." He revealed that Israel recently "eliminated two more nuclear scientists" in Iran.

Arab countries in the Persian Gulf decided they did not want to act as mediators as long as Iran continued to attack their countries, but several other countries including Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt have offered assistance, though it remains unclear if there are any mediating partners involved.

Turkey and Pakistan have floated ideas for in-person meetings between US and Iranian officials.

One proposal calls for a meeting between Araghchi, Witkoff and Kushner while another suggests Vice President JD Vance meets with Ghalibaf. Officials said none of the meetings have been scheduled.

"These are sensitive diplomatic discussions and the US will not negotiate through the press," Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, said in a statement. "This is a fluid situation, and speculation about meetings should not be deemed as final until they are formally announced by the White House."

For Trump, the prospect of negotiations allows him to buy time to try to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and to extract himself from a box of his own construction. On Saturday night, Trump said if Iran did not open the strait within 48 hours, the United States would "obliterate" Iran's power plants.

After he issued his threat, it became clear that if he attacked Iran's electrical infrastructure, the retaliation would take place against Gulf allies who are already trying to keep the war from spreading. But if he backed away from his threat, some officials around him feared he would be conveying weakness to the Iranians.

On Monday, Iranian officials said Trump's announcement was evidence of the United States giving in. "Trump, out of fear of Iran's response, backed down from his 48-hour ultimatum," the Iranian state broadcaster, IRIB, said.

Trump is facing increasing domestic and economic pressure to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The war's global fallout has seen the price of oil and gas shoot up as much as 40% since late February, a crisis that is now worse than the oil shocks in 1973 and 1979 combined, according to the head of the International Energy Agency.

Trump's statement about talks with Iran immediately reduced energy prices somewhat, but it was unclear how long that could last without tangible progress toward ending the war. The president has repeatedly given optimistic assessments that temporarily eased market jitters, only for prices to rise again.

Trump on Monday promised the Strait of Hormuz would be open "very soon" and would be "jointly controlled."

"Maybe me? Maybe me," he said when asked who would control the key waterway. "Me and the ayatollah. Whoever the ayatollah is."

For now, the "productive conversations" appear less a breakthrough than a mutual testing of limits. Washington seeks to regain leverage without triggering wider regional blowback, while Tehran is signalling openness only to a durable arrangement that guarantees security and economic reprieve. The risk is that misreading these tentative exchanges as progress could harden positions rather than soften them. With energy markets volatile and allies wary, the coming days will test whether diplomacy can outpace escalation.

The New York Times

Fix finances to fix Bengaluru

MUHAMMED RIYAS AND ASHWIN RAM

The new Greater Bengaluru Authority cannot fix the city's infrastructure gaps unless municipal finances are strengthened. The GBA's replacement of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) marks an important shift in the city's urban governance. Designed to improve coordination among multiple municipal corporations and parastatal agencies, the new authority seeks to address long-standing concerns over fragmented governance.

While this is touted as a milestone in governance reform, the recently released State Finance Commission (SFC) report makes it clear that Bengaluru's challenges are not merely institutional; they are fundamentally fiscal. The SFC findings highlight the scale of the city's infrastructure deficit. For instance, Bengaluru will require more than 1,000 km of additional road network over the next four years, even as its road length has remained largely stagnant for over a decade. Meanwhile, vehicle numbers have expanded rapidly, intensifying congestion and placing enormous pressure on infrastructure, air quality and public health.

These challenges are often attributed to poor planning and fragmented administration. While governance inefficiencies continue to exacerbate infrastructure deficits, such explanations often overlook a structural constraint: municipal governments lack adequate financial resources to meet the city's growing needs.

Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are responsible for providing essential services such as roads, drainage, solid waste management, and neighbourhood infrastructure. Yet the quality and reliability of these services remain uneven, largely because their revenue base is weak, with poor cost recovery and significant subsidy burdens.

Property taxes and user charges form a significant share of municipal revenue, while fiscal transfers from state governments remain modest and unpredictable. Recognising this imbalance, the SFC report recommends that 5% of state GST revenue be allocated to municipal bodies. Such transfers are critical, as rapidly expanding cities like Bengaluru require investments that cannot be financed through municipal taxation alone.

The SFC has also proposed diversifying the revenue powers of ULBs. Among its suggestions is the reintroduction of an entertainment tax, enabling municipal governments to tap revenue from cinemas, cultural events, and other urban activities. Expanding local revenue sources could meaningfully strengthen municipal finances and improve public service delivery.

These fiscal considerations are particularly important in the context of Bengaluru's ongoing institutional restructuring. The government has established the GBA and is considering further dividing the BBMP into multiple municipal corporations. While smaller municipal units may improve administrative manageability, they could face greater fiscal stress if cost recovery, revenue bases, and intergovernmental transfers are not strengthened simultaneously.

Institutional restructuring without fiscal empowerment risks creating multiple municipal corporations with expanded responsibilities but limited financial capacity. This creates additional fiscal burden on the newly created ULBs as they are expected to provide and manage various public services for rapidly growing populations without adequate financial support. Urban governance reforms must therefore go beyond institutional restructuring. Therefore, the SFC report provides a clear roadmap by emphasising the need for stronger fiscal decentralisation.

Amid rapid urbanisation, Bengaluru's infrastructure requirements are not modest and are curtailed by persistent gaps. Expanding road networks, managing drainage systems, improving mobility, and maintaining urban services in a rapidly growing metropolitan region demand sustained financial investments. Municipal governments must have predictable revenue streams such that the urban public services are delivered effectively.

International experience shows that successful urban governance reforms combine institutional coordination with strong fiscal empowerment of local governments. Cities require both effective administrative structures and adequate financial resources to address critical infrastructure gaps and needs.

The creation of the GBA is an important step towards improving Bengaluru's governance. But institutional reform alone cannot resolve the city's infrastructure challenges. If Bengaluru's governance reforms are to succeed, the state government must also implement the fiscal recommendations of the SFC, including greater GST transfers, and expand revenue powers for municipal bodies. Only by strengthening the fiscal foundations of ULBs can Bengaluru's municipal institutions effectively respond to the demands of a rapidly expanding metropolis.

(Muhammed is an assistant professor at Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, and Ashwin is an assistant professor at the School of Economics and Public Policy, RV University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MARCH 1976

Montgomery dead

London, March 24
Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, the most famous British soldier of modern times, died early today aged 88, the Ministry of Defence announced. Lord Montgomery died in his sleep at his country home in the south of England where he had been bedridden for several years. He was Britain's national military hero of World War II and the country's most successful soldier since the Duke of Wellington. However, criticism by several distinguished military commentators has dented the image of the military genius.

25 YEARS AGO: MARCH 2001

BJP executive admits to 'guilt'

New Delhi, March 24
Though on the face of it the BJP National Executive sees in the *Tehelka* expose "a conspiracy" to "destabilise" the nation and "defame" the party, the party's political resolution hardly hides the admission of guilt and need for "institutional changes" to "reform the system". Read between the lines, the resolution makes it clear that Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and other top-rung leaders have been forced to admit the need for a clean-up operation at the level of the party and the government.

OASIS | NAZEER AHEMAD KAZI

The power of right thinking

Human beings are called supreme creatures, not merely because of physical strength or intelligence but because of the ability to think about both right and wrong. This capacity for moral reasoning, reflection, and conscious choice distinguishes humans from other living beings.

Animals act primarily on instinct, but humans possess awareness, conscience and accountability. The power to choose between good and bad, truth and falsehood, and justice and injustice is what elevates human status. Yet this same freedom also makes humans responsible for their actions. The *Bhagavad Gita* explores the inner struggle between right and wrong thinking.

In *Gita*, Sri Krishna advises Arjuna about *dharma* and the importance of controlling the mind. Chapter 6 emphasises that the mind can be a person's best friend or worst enemy depending on how it is directed. The *Gita* teaches that wisdom, self-discipline, and devotion elevate a person toward higher consciousness, while uncontrolled desires and ignorance lead to downfall. Thus, right thinking aligns with truth, selflessness, and spiritual awareness.

In the *Quran*, human dignity is clearly emphasised. God says that He has honoured the children of Adam and preferred them over much of His creation. Right thinking is another name for sound thinking. The first thing for the people to do is to gain expertise in right thinking. Without it, their lives will be rendered meaningless.

The *Quran* says that humans are given free will and can incline towards righteousness or corruption.

The soul has been inspired with both its wickedness and its righteousness. Thus, human greatness lies not in automatic goodness but in consciously choosing what is right.

The *Bible* also highlights the moral responsibility of human thought. In the *Book of Genesis*, humans are described as being created "in the image of God". Christianity emphasises that sinful thoughts can lead to sinful actions, but repentance and faith can purify the heart and guide a person toward righteousness. Right thinking produces compassion, justice, humility and service to others. Wrong thinking produces arrogance, hatred, and oppression. Therefore, the true superiority of humans lies in ethical consciousness. When a person chooses truth over falsehood, patience over anger, and kindness over cruelty, they rise spiritually. Right thinking elevates humanity, wrong thinking diminishes it.

Oppn seeks all-party meet on women's reservation

15 parties write to Centre; Trinamool stays away

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid the Centre's plans to tweak the delimitation timeline to facilitate early implementation of the women's quota, the Opposition on Wednesday wrote to the Narendra Modi government seeking an all-party meeting on 33% reservation in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies after April 29, the final day of polling in the latest round of state elections. They also demanded circulation of a detailed note outlining the proposal.

The letter, signed by leaders of 15 parties, was delivered to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju following a meeting of Opposition floor leaders chaired by Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge. The move came after the government's outreach to some parties to discuss the modalities of implementing the women's quota.

The Trinamool Congress has not signed the letter, which has been endorsed by the Congress, Samajwadi Party, DMK, RJD, AAP, CPM, CPI, NCP-SP, Shiv Sena (UBT), CPI(ML)L, RSP, JMM, National Conference, Muslim League and VCK. The Trinamool does not want to be seen as dealing with the ruling BJP during the election season.

The letter noted that Kharge had written to Rijiju on March 16, seeking an all-party meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the "modalities and roadmap" for implementing the Nari Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, officially known as the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act.

Acknowledging the government's plan to further amend the quota law passed in September 2023, the letter stated, "All Opposition parties now reiterate their demand for an all-party meeting to discuss the proposed Constitution amendment. To make the meeting more productive, it is necessary for the government to circulate a note detailing what exactly is being proposed."

Govt hints at early end to Budget session

The Centre has hinted that the ongoing Budget Session of Parliament could be adjourned ahead of schedule on Friday so that several members from poll-going states could campaign in their respective regions. Discussions with several parties are going on.

MPs Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, S Jothimani and Imran Masood with the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi during the Budget Session on Tuesday. PTI

DH DECIPHERS

Govt formula on Women's Reservation Bill

The Narendra Modi government is in discussion with the Opposition parties to amend the Women's Reservation Bill for its early implementation. **Sumit Pande** *explains the proposed changes that delink the existing bill from the 2027 census and the next delimitation of the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly constituencies.*

When was the women's reservation first implemented in India?
The Constitution, when it was drafted, provided for the reservation of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There was no provision to reserve seats for women. The reservation for women was first introduced through the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments by introducing a women's quota in the three-tier local body elections. The law also provided for a 33% horizontal quota for women in the seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Of the total number of seats to be filled by direct elections, one-third were reserved for women.

When was a bill to reserve seats in Parliament and the state assemblies first introduced?
The H D Deve Gowda government introduced the 81st Constitution Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha in 1996, but it lapsed upon the dissolution of the house in 1998. There were four more attempts to get the legislation passed over the next six years, but on each occasion the proposal was dropped in the face of stiff opposition. Ten years later, the UPA government introduced the bill in the Rajya Sabha and managed to get it passed amid strong opposition from regional parties from the heartland states. The bill, however, could not get the consent of the Lower House of the Parliament and lapsed upon dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.

When was the bill reserving seats for women in the central and state assemblies passed by the Parliament?
The Modi government, in 2023, introduced the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, or the 128th Constitution Amendment Bill, and got it unanimously passed by both houses of the Parliament. The bill reserved one-third of the seats for women in the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, and the Delhi Assembly. This quota is also applicable to the existing SC and ST reservations. The law, however, does not apply to the Rajya Sabha and state legislative councils.

How does the law link delimitation and census with the reservation for women?
The 2023 law says women's reservation will be based on the first census conducted after the passage of the bill. It will be applicable for 15 years, with parliament having the right to grant an extension. The delimitation exercise will govern the rotation of seats allocated for women. In other words, the basis for the implementation of women's reservation would be the 2027 census data and the subsequent delimitation of the seats.

When will the new bill come into being?
The government wants to implement the women's reservation for the 2029 Lok Sabha polls. However, it is not clear whether the formula proposed for the increase of the seats in the LS will also be applicable to the state legislative assemblies. The Opposition parties have asked the Centre to officially share the proposal for better understanding of the formula proposed by the government.

What are the proposed changes in the Women's Reservation Bill now?
The government has initiated a discussion with the Opposition to bring in two bills. The objective is to use the Census 2011 data instead of the 2027 numbers for the delimitation of seats. Increasing the total number of Lok Sabha seats by 50% in each state to take the cumulative strength of the Lok Sabha from 543 to 816, and setting aside the quantum increment of 273 seats for women. This means in Karnataka, the total number of seats can go up from 28 to 42, and the additional 14 seats are reserved for women. Using this formula, the government argues, the proportional representation of seats of each state in the Lower House would remain unchanged.

Oppn sees poll tactic in quota push

ANALYSIS

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Opposition views the Narendra Modi government's attempt at the early implementation of 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies—basing delimitation on the 2011 census instead of the 2027 exercise, which includes caste data—as an attempt to avoid possible demands for quota within quota for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

They have also linked the timing of the move to the Assembly elections, demanding that an all-party meeting be convened after April 29, the last day of polling. The Opposition insists that the government's outreach is aimed at gaining electoral mileage in states such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, where the Opposition has an edge.

The contours of the proposal are unclear to the Opposition, but available details suggest the government is planning a two-pronged strategy by conducting delimitation of constituencies using the 2011 census as the base to increase the number of seats, and then using it to choose constituencies reserved for women.

PUSHBACK

- Oppn says govt using 2011 Census for delimitation to push 33% quota early
- Believes it's an attempt to sidestep quota-within-quota demands expected after Census 2027
- Oppn links announcement to Assembly polls; demands all-party meet only after April 29

Going by the proposal, the number of Lok Sabha seats could rise from 543 to 816, with 273 earmarked for women. Similarly, Assembly seats will increase by 50%.

The government is pitching for using the 2011 census for delimitation, mainly on the grounds that the ongoing census exercise will not provide the data to redraw constituencies before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, which would further delay the implementation of the 33% quota.

A senior Congress leader questioned the urgency shown by the government, pointing out that it was aware of the Census 2027 timeline and the time required for the delimitation process. The Opposition has also highlighted the inclusion of caste count for the first time in the census in independent India.

The Congress leader said that a delimitation exercise after the 2027 Census would trigger demands for a quota within the quota for OBC women, something the ruling BJP may want to avoid. "That is why they are using the facade of early implementation, and for that, the way out is using Census 2011," the leader said.

Incidentally, the move would also require amendments to the Constitution, which currently provides for delimitation only after "the first census conducted after 2026".

In recent weeks, government managers reached out to major Opposition parties for a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah. However, the Congress—the main Opposition party—opposed "selective" meetings and called for an all-party discussion.

The Trinamool Congress, DMK and CPM also declined to meet Shah, while parties such as AIMIM, NCP(SP), Shiv Sena (UBT), YSR Congress and BJD attended. A senior Trinamool Congress leader dismissed the government's outreach as a "purely political stunt".

The Opposition wants to avoid any discussion on the issue during the polls and has written to the government demanding that an all-party meeting be convened only after polling concludes on April 29.

Gujarat Assembly passes UCC bill; live-in registration must

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

AFTER U'KHAND

- Gujarat becomes second state to move towards UCC, after BJP-ruled Uttarakhand
- Law to govern and regulate laws related to marriage, divorce, inheritance
- Oppn Congress, AAP question timing of bill

The Gujarat Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed the contentious Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026, in the Assembly, aiming to establish a unified personal law for its citizens. With this, Gujarat becomes the second state in the country to do so, after BJP-ruled Uttarakhand. Several provisions of the bill have been drawn from the Himalayan state's legislation.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel presented the bill amid protests from the Opposition Congress and AAP, both of which questioned its timing. The state is gearing up for local body elections ahead of next year's Assembly polls. Following a long discussion, the Assembly passed the bill unanimously late Tuesday night.

The bill seeks to govern and regulate laws related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, live-in relationships, and related matters for all residents of the state.

Once the bill becomes a law, registration of marriage and live-in relationships will become mandatory, and a Rs 10,000 fine could be imposed for non-compliance. Every live-in couple will have to submit a declaration to the registrar, from where it will be notified to the police stations.

The bill also bans polygamy and has a provision for jail up to seven years in case of marriages performed by force or coercion. Any form of divorce other than a court decree will be punishable with up to three years' imprisonment.

The provisions are based on the recommendations of an expert panel headed by former SC judge Ranjana Prakash Desai.

Trump dials Modi; India backs peace bid

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday conveyed to US President Donald Trump New Delhi's support for efforts to restore peace in West Asia, amid reports that Pakistan might host peace talks between Iran and Israel.

A day earlier, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke over the phone on the conflict.

"Received a call from President Trump and had a useful exchange of views on the situation in West Asia. India supports de-escalation and restoration of peace at the earliest," Modi posted on X. "Ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains open, secure and accessible is essential for the whole world. We agreed to stay in touch regarding efforts towards peace and stability."

Narendra Modi

"President Donald Trump just spoke with Prime Minister Modi. They discussed the ongoing situation in the Middle East, including the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open," Sergio Gor, the US ambassador to India, posted on X.

Trump had a phone call with Pakistan Army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, on Sunday. They discussed the possibility of representatives of Iran and the US meeting in Islamabad and holding talks to end the conflict.

More Indian-flagged vessels to sail through Hormuz: Govt

Says no permit needed to pass through strait

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The government on Tuesday said that more Indian-flagged vessels are prepared to sail through the Strait of Hormuz, the only sea channel linking the oil-rich Persian Gulf with open oceans.

Sailing through the strait does not require permission from any country. The movement through the strait is decided by shipping companies and their contracting entities after considering safety and other conditions, Rajesh Kumar Singh, Special Secretary at the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, told reporters here.

He also rejected claims that stranded Indian vessels in the Persian Gulf were being allowed to sail through the strait only after reaching some kind of agreement with Iran, which controls the narrow shipping lane.

Pine Gas LPG tanker proceeds after crossing the war-hit Strait of Hormuz amid the ongoing West Asia conflict. PTI

Two more Indian-flagged LPG tankers, carrying about a day's supply of the country's cooking gas, on Monday crossed the war-hit Strait of Hormuz and are expected to reach Indian shores on March 26 and 27.

LPG tanker Pine Gas is carrying about 45,000 tonnes of LPG and is scheduled to reach New Mangalore port on March 27, while Jag Vasant, with 47,612 tonnes of LPG, will reach Kandla in Gujarat on March 26, he said.

'Enough fuel, stop panic buying'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Tuesday said that India has adequate stocks of petrol, diesel and LPG, and that all refineries are operating at high capacity.

Though panic buying of petrol, triggered by rumours, led to unusually high sales in some areas, fuel retail outlets across the country remain fully functional, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, told reporters here.

Centre calls all-party meet on West Asia

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Close on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in Parliament on the West Asia situation, the government has convened an all-party meeting on Wednesday to discuss developments in the region.

Sources said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to chair the meeting, scheduled for 5 pm, with Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and other senior leaders expected to attend. Leader of the Opposition in the LS Rahul Gandhi will not be present, as he has a scheduled election rally in Kerala.

Modi had addressed both Houses on the issue earlier this week, amid Opposition demands for a detailed discussion on the West Asia crisis..

"Instead of allowing a discussion on West Asia on the floor of the House while Parliament is in session, why is the government calling an all-party meeting in a conference room and not inside Parliament?" asked TMC's Rajya Sabha Deputy Floor Leader Sagarika Ghose.

8-hr limit for train ticket refund

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday said that confirmed train tickets cancelled less than eight hours before departure will no longer be eligible for refunds.

The new refund rule, which is intended to reduce last-minute cancellations and improve seat availability for other passengers, will come into force between April 1 and 15 this year, he told reporters here.

At present, no refund is provided if the ticket is cancelled in less than four hours.

Other refund slabs have also been revised: a cancellation between 24 and eight hours will incur a 50% deduction from the ticket cost.

This is currently 12 to four hours.

The railways will deduct 25 per cent of the ticket cost for cancellations between 72 and 24 hours before departure.

A full refund—except a flat cancellation charge per passenger—will be given for cancellations made more than 72 hours before the departure.

Under the existing policy, cancellations made between 48 and 12 hours incur a 25% deduction of the ticket cost, while a full refund is given for cancellations made more than 48 hours in advance.

The new refund rule, which the railways minister announced for all trains on Tuesday, has already been in force on Vande Bharat Sleeper and Amrit Bharat II trains launched after January.

Vaishnaw on Tuesday said travel class upgradation will now be allowed up to 30 minutes before departure for passengers who bought counter tickets.

Ticket cancellation norms

Before 72 hours of departure	72 to 24 hours	24 to 8 hours	Less than 8 hours
Full refund except cancellation charge	Around 25% deduction	Up to 50% deduction	No refund

Change of boarding station will be allowed 30 mins before the train's scheduled departure

Travel class upgrade will be allowed up to 30 minutes before departure.

Bhagwat urges Hindus to have three children

LUCKNOW, DHNS: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday said Hindu families should have three children, warning that anything fewer would be "dangerous" for them. He also called for identifying "illegal immigrants" and informing the authorities.

Speaking at a function in Mathura's Vrindavan, Bhagwat said that efforts were on for ghar wapsi (homecoming) of Hindus who had converted to other religions.

The RSS chief urged Hindus to have at least three children. "Anything below it will be dangerous for Hindus."

He added that several countries with declining birth rates had adopted a three-child norm.

Voter roll revision smooth nationwide, except Bengal: Supreme Court

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has been conducted smoothly across the country, except in West Bengal.

Hearing a batch of petitions, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, who presided over the bench, remarked, "Two-three days ago, when I was travelling, there was an article on SIR. The article refers to states governed by Party A, Party B, and Party C. Other than West Bengal, everywhere it (the SIR) has happened smoothly."

Senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee said that logical discrepancies have not been applied to any state except West Bengal. "This court will not find anywhere that a notification was issued at 3 o'clock and by midnight the chief secretary was shifted," he said.

The bench said there are many more complicated issues. "Everything happened so smoothly. There were more complicated issues, maybe not equally complicated. But there is hardly any litigation coming. There are states where the deletions are much higher," the bench observed.

Senior advocate DS Naidu, representing the Election Commission, said that in Gujarat the rate is double, and in Uttar Pradesh the deletion rate is among the highest.

The bench noted that deletions in Gujarat are nearly 19%. Banerjee countered that this was being compared with 2002 figures, pointing out that the population has since increased, and argued that 20% is nothing.

SC to Bengal: Can ED inform govt if CM obstructs raid?

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked whether the Enforcement Directorate would inform the West Bengal government, headed by Mamata Banerjee, if she barged in during a raid by central agency officials.

The court posed the question after advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the West Bengal government, argued that the ED cannot file a writ petition. Instead, he said, the agency should have informed the state government of any obstruction during the search at the I-PAC office and premises in Kolkata.

Govt notifies new gas pipeline distribution order

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) on Tuesday notified the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution (Through Laying, Building, Operation and Expansion of Pipelines and Other Facilities) Order, 2026 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to provide a streamlined and time-bound framework for laying and expanding pipelines across the country.

The order addresses delays in approvals and access to land, enabling faster development of natural gas infrastructure, including in residential areas, the statement from the ministry said.

The order comes into immediate effect and establishes a comprehensive, transparent and investor-friendly framework for gas distribution, rapid infrastructure expansion and equitable access to cleaner energy.

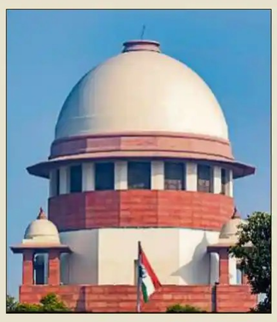
The order aims to facilitate the expansion of piped natural gas networks, improve last-mile connectivity and promote a shift towards cleaner fuels for cooking, transport and industrial purposes, thereby strengthening energy security.

Reserved candidates can shift to open category if rules permit: SC

Exam relaxation no bar to merit-based selection: Court

TEACHER POSTS

- SC says migration of reserved-category candidates depends on recruitment rules or employment notification
- Permissible if rules allow, or if rules/notifications are silent
- Court sets aside Bombay HC order, asks Maharashtra to include appellants in open category teacher posts
- HC had barred migration, citing unfair advantage
- Appellants argued merit in the main exam (TAIT) should decide open category placement



ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The migration of a reserved-category candidate who has availed of a concession or relaxation in the qualifying examination depends on the recruitment rules or the employment notification, the Supreme Court has said.

"If such recruitment rules or employment notification permit such migration, it is permissible. Such migration shall also be permissible if the recruitment rules or employment notification are silent or do not expressly prohibit it," a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe said.

The court set aside the Bombay High Court's February 14, 2025 judgment and directed Maharashtra government authorities to include the appellants, belonging to the reserved category, to migrate to general category, for they had secured marks higher than the last selected candidate in the open category for the post of teachers to different schools of Zila Parishad, Municipal Corporations, Nagar Parishad and Private Managements.

Relying on the decision of the Supreme Court in Government of (NCT of Delhi) & Ors Vs Pradeep Kumar & Others (2019), the HC held that candidates availing of the benefit of relaxation cannot migrate to the general category and permitting such migration would confer an unfair advantage over general-category candidates.

It also held that the appellants have no enforceable legal right to claim consideration in the open category after having availed of relaxation in Teachers Eligibility Test.

The appellants argued that relaxation in a qualifying examination cannot bar migration to the open category when merit in the main selection examination is higher. They contended that the open category is a merit category and not a quota reserved for general candidates. The purpose of relaxation in eligibility is to create a level playing field, not to penalise merit.

The state counsel, however, argued that candidates who qualified the TET under relaxed standards cannot claim migration to the open category. It was further contended that permitting such migration would amount to granting a double benefit of quota. The court noted that the minimum qualifying marks for candidates belonging to SC, ST, Denotified and Nomadic Tribes, OBC, PwD, and other specified categories for passing the TET was 55%.

Top court grants pension relief to women SSC officers

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that women Short Service Commission (SSC) officers in the Army, Navy and Air Force who were denied permanent commission (PC) due to a "systemic disparity" would be entitled to full pensionary benefits.

The top court delivered three separate verdicts challenging the denial of PC based on policy changes in 2019 and previous Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) rulings in the Army, Air Force and Navy.

In the verdict on a plea by Yogendra Kumar Singh related to the Navy, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi granted PC to several groups of SSC officers, primarily women, as a one-time measure.

India's first passive euthanasia patient dies

NEW DELHI, DHNS: After being in a coma for more than 13 years, Harish Rana – the first person in India to be allowed by the Supreme Court to undergo a passive euthanasia protocol – passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here on Tuesday, the hospital said.

"Harish Rana passed away at 4:10 pm on March 24 at AIIMS Delhi. He was under the care of a dedicated team of doctors and was admitted to the palliative oncology unit (IRCH), led by Seema Mishra, head of the department, onco-anaesthesia and palliative medicine," AIIMS said in a statement. "AIIMS extends its heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time."

The former Punjab University B.Tech student suffered serious brain injuries after falling from the fourth-floor balcony of a paying guest accommodation in 2013. He had been in a coma since then with artificial nutritional support. Occasionally, he also required oxygen.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court, in a landmark judgement, approved a plea from Rana's parents to allow withdrawal of the artificial feeding that kept him alive.

He was shifted from his Ghaziabad home to the palliative care unit at Dr BR Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital at AIIMS on March 14. Following his admission, Harish's nutritional support was gradually withdrawn in accordance with a laid-down protocol.

After his death, his family is learnt to have donated his corneas and heart valves, which were retrieved by the hospital.

Harish's family had said after the apex court judgement that withdrawal of artificial life support would not bring any personal benefit to the family, but in the larger public interest, the decision could help others facing similar situations.

His father, Ashok Rana, had said withdrawal of artificial life support would restore Harish's dignity after years of irreversible suffering. In its judgement, the apex court overturned previous rulings of the Delhi High Court as well as its own and directed AIIMS Delhi to ensure that life support is withdrawn with a tailored plan so that dignity is maintained.

A specialised medical team comprising specialists from the departments of neurosurgery, onco-anaesthesia and palliative medicine, and psychiatry was constituted to execute the process.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

I WANT YOU GUYS TO GIVE ME 1,000 PERCENT!!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. 100 PERCENT IS EVERYTHING
OKAY. THEN I WANT 100 PERCENT!
HOW ABOUT 60?

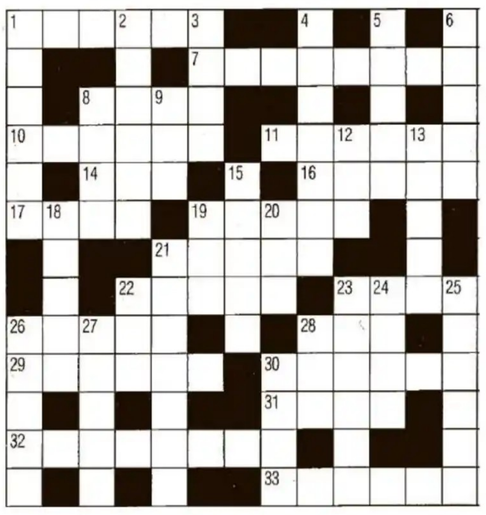
Peanuts

CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP
CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP
WHAT'S GOING ON?
LINUS IS TRYING TO GET HIS BLANKET BACK FROM THAT CAT! HE'S GOING TO DROP ON TOP OF HIM FROM THE HELICOPTER
I HAVE LONG SUSPECTED THAT INSANITY RUNS IN OUR FAMILY!

Marvin

IF SOMEONE DOES DECIDE TO MAKE A MOVIE ABOUT YOU...
...THE WARDROBE EXPENSES WILL BE AT A MINIMUM
ALL THEY'LL NEED IS TWO OR THREE T-SHIRTS WITH A BIG "M" ON THEM

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12380



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Can it not be eaten in silence? (6)
7 Clumsy in a purely amateurish way? (8)
8 An indication of crass ignorance (4)
10 It's on the cards, we believe (6)
11 Agree to be heir to? (6)
14 Figure out a way to get even (3)
16 Over there across the road, there's harmony (5)
17 The place for plain clothes men? (4)
19 Prepared to pay cash (5)
21 The beauty of a ringing sound (5)
22 The hospital border? (5)
23 Good reason to get your skates on? (4)
26 Mended in the manner persuaded (5)
28 Dry in half a jiffy (3)
29 When young, entered the outskirts of Torquay (6)
30 Like the new drome at central Greenwich (6)
31 No stranger to being sued? (4)
32 Studying how to make stuffing? (8)
33 Gloomy and angry about the doc (6)

DOWN
1 Were there no island to see, there would still be the bay (6)
2 Shown the way by an ex-Brownie? (6)
3 Hasten with beating heart, little one (4)
4 Source of pricy information for a swimmer in the nude (7)
5 Lacking nourishment, you can still have fun, boy (5)
6 Wat a rebel! (5)
8 Observer with the right to check? (4)
9 Drink with Joe over the way (3)
12 Show grief, crossly ignoring a terrible loss (3)
13 A bit of a riot at the detention centre can be the devil! (5)
15 Don't be surprised if she's Swedish (5)
18 Let everybody cry! (5)
19 Like diamonds, suitably? (3)
20 Beverage from Caledonia (3)
21 Justification for a story? (7)
22 She may be broody during the night (3)
23 Get back from uncle's (6)
24 Cool when shaking dice (4)
25 To start a fire is beneficial to the French (6)
26 Put up with punishment (5)
27 Such aid may be ëbrief' (5)
28 A hissed message, nothing less? (3)
30 Fatheads full of drink? (4)

ACROSS
1 Fall awkwardly (6)
7 Sauntered (8)
8 Ceremonial splendour (4)
10 Room for manoeuvre (6)
11 Water down (6)
14 Pistachio, for example (3)
16 Alcoholic drink (5)
17 Harsh grating noise (4)
19 Cold dish (5)
21 Iron, for example (5)
22 Stinking (5)
23 Ready money (4)
26 Pompous girl (5)
28 Steal from (3)
29 Loves deeply (6)
30 Commotion (6)
31 Leave out (4)
32 Burial ground (8)
33 Sibling (6)

DOWN
1 Cashier (6)
2 Explode (4,2)
3 Catch sight of (4)
4 Of current affairs (7)
5 Nimbus, for example (5)
6 Loafer (5)
8 Writing tools (4)
9 Floor covering (3)
12 Removable cover (3)
13 Rips (5)
15 Proportion (5)
18 In front (5)
19 Harden (3)
20 Stripling (3)
21 Souvenir (7)
22 Distant (3)
23 Comedians (6)
24 Adjoin (4)
25 Boastful or empty talk (3,3)
26 Month (5)
27 Doctrine (5)
28 Strange (3)
30 Playthings (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12379

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, U-boat 6, Copse 9, So-up-con 10, M-O-use 11, Putin 12, Den-Is. 13, Curried 15, Pet 17, Heat 18, Cur-ar-e 19, H-airs 20, Fr-ida-y 22, Skis 24, Fad 25, Voltage 26, Admen 27, Panto 28, Actor 29, Out-back 30, Lea-pt 31, Types.
DOWN: 2, Brogue 3, Asse-R-t 4, To-E 5, Speed 6, Cop-IOUS 7, On-US 8, Spider 12, Decay 13, Chaff 14, Rapid 15, Parka 16, Terse 18, Croon 19, Hand-out 21, Ravage 22, Stock-y 23, Ignore 25, Verbs 26, Atop 28, Act.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Hutch 6, At sea 9, Hideous 10, Droop 11, Tails 12, Prior 13, Fatuous 15, Air 17, Alas 18, Assure 19, Sixty 20, Chisel 22, Side 24, Yet 25, Saunter 26, Mules 27, Royal 28, Sprat 29, Tank top 30, Sneer 31, Types.
DOWN: 2, Unreal 3, Chorus 4, Hip 5, Fears 6, Autopsy 7, Tsar 8, Eclair 12, Pupil 13, Fancy 14, Tacit 15, Audit 16, Refer 18, Atlas 19, Secular 21, Heroin 22, Snappy 23, Decade 25, Seeks 26, Mate 28, Sot.

◆SU-DO-KU-6862◆

	1	7				4		5
		4		2	7		1	
5					1		2	8
8		3						
4	7	5		8		2	9	1
					2	5		3
1	5		2					9
	4		3	5		1		
9		2				8	5	

easy

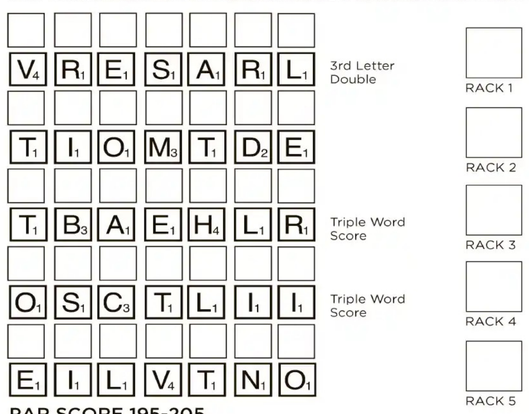
7	8	9	3	1	2	6	4	5
6	4	1	5	7	9	8	3	2
3	5	2	4	8	6	1	7	9
5	7	6	1	2	4	3	9	8
8	1	4	9	6	3	2	5	7
2	9	3	8	5	7	4	1	6
1	6	8	7	3	5	9	2	4
4	3	7	2	9	8	5	6	1
9	2	5	6	4	1	7	8	3

SOLUTION TO 6861

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.


V4 R1 E1 S1 A1 R1 L1
3rd Letter Double
RACK 1
T1 I1 O1 M3 T1 D2 E1
RACK 2
T1 B3 A1 E1 H4 L1 R1
Triple Word Score
RACK 3
O1 S1 C3 T1 L1 I1 I1
Triple Word Score
RACK 4
E1 I1 L1 V4 T1 N1 O1
RACK 5

PAR SCORE 195-205
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

RACK 1 = 83
RACK 2 = 77
RACK 3 = 89
RACK 4 = 9
JUDD'S TOTAL 258

PAR SCORE 170-180

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GIEBE
YBRDE
OJDIAN
NRIHDE

Looks like we have continued interest in "The Puzzler". Do I hear 200? 200! 300? 300!...
I can do this all day.
I'll find your limit.
PRICES AT THE AUCTION WERE GOING UP AND UP. THIS WOULD GO ON UNTIL THE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ELUDE NINTH ABRUPT DISMAY
Answer: The scarecrow didn't have a brain, and as a result, he was being — ABSENT-MINDED

HITORI-3316

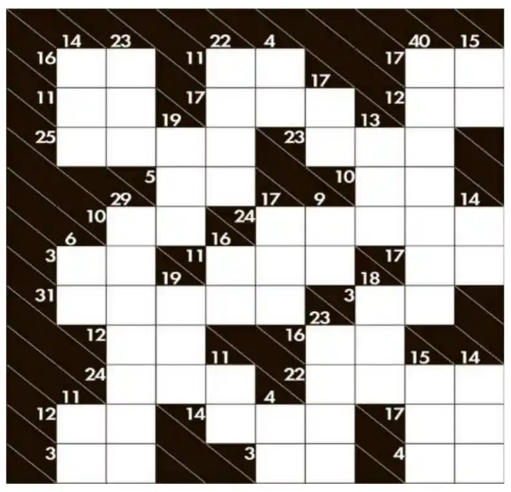
3	4	8	6	2	5	4	4
7	2	3	4	1	6	1	4
4	1	1	3	8	7	6	5
7	3	6	4	1	7	1	2
8	1	6	5	7	3	4	6
1	4	7	4	6	6	3	1
6	8	7	2	7	1	7	3
5	1	4	8	3	2	1	7

SOLUTION TO 3315

■	7	5	■	3	4	6	■
6	8	■	3	1	5	■	2
5	■	4	1	■	6	3	8
7	3	■	6	4	■	8	■
■	4	1	■	5	8	■	3
1	■	3	4	■	2	5	7
3	1	7	■	6	■	2	5
8	■	6	5	7	3	4	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

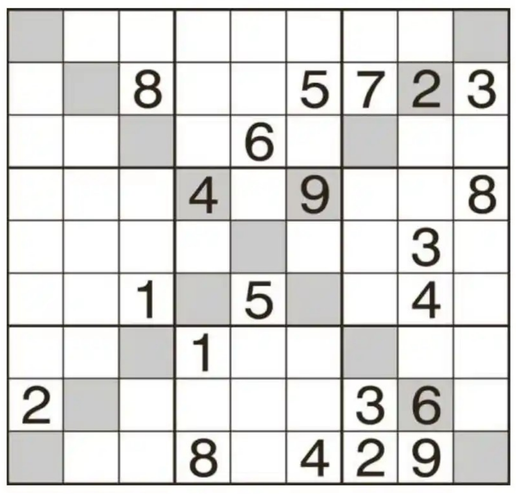
KAKURO- 3316



SOLUTION TO 3315

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3865



SOLUTION TO 3864

8	3	4	2	1	9	7	6	5
6	9	7	8	4	5	2	1	3
1	5	2	6	3	7	8	9	4
5	6	3	4	9	2	1	8	7
4	7	8	5	6	1	9	3	2
9	2	1	7	8	3	4	5	6
7	1	9	3	2	6	5	4	8
2	4	6	1	5	8	3	7	9
3	8	5	9	7	4	6	2	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

US in negotiations with Iran 'right now', says Trump

'Iran has made a major energy-related concession to Washington'

WASHINGTON/TEHRAN, AFP/ REUTERS

US President Donald Trump addresses a press conference at the White House in Washington DC on Tuesday. REUTERS

Donald Trump said on Tuesday that the United States was in negotiations with Iran to end the ongoing war, even as Iran and Israel exchanged fresh strikes, highlighting the fragile situation in the region.

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, Trump said talks were underway "right now" and that Tehran wanted to reach a deal "very badly". He said the negotiations involved Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, envoy Steve Witkoff and his son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Trump also said Iran had made a major energy-related concession to the United States, describing it as a significant development, though he did not provide details. He suggested it could be linked to the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global oil shipments that Washington has long sought to keep open.

"They gave us a present and the present arrived today, and it was a very big present, worth a tremendous amount of money," Trump said, adding that the move was related to oil and gas rather than nuclear issues.

The US president reiterated that he believed the United States had effectively already won the war and said Washington was talking to "the right people" in Iran. He added that Iran was eager to reach a settlement to end hostilities. Meanwhile, Pakistan has said it is willing to host talks between the United States and Iran.

Despite the diplomatic signals, fighting on the ground continued. Iran and Israel traded strikes on Tuesday, with the conflict showing no sign of easing after three weeks of war in West Asia.

Israel's military said it carried out a "large wave" of airstrikes across several areas of Iran.

Earlier, Iranian media said US-Israeli warplanes had struck two gas facilities and a pipeline, hours after Trump stepped back from a threat to target energy infrastructure.

Iran: Non-hostile ships may transit Hormuz Strait

Iran has told International Maritime Organization member states that "non-hostile vessels" may transit the Strait of Hormuz if they coordinate with Iranian authorities, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday.

Israel to take control of South Lebanon

Israel said on Tuesday that its military would take control of south Lebanon up to the Litani River, around 30 kilometres from the border, as deadly strikes pounded the country, reports AFP.

In the latest unprecedented step by Lebanese authorities since a new war erupted between Israel and Hezbollah, Lebanon's foreign ministry declared the Iranian ambassador persona non grata, giving him until Sunday to leave country.

Iran appoints new security chief

▸ Iran named on Tuesday a former Revolutionary Guards commander, Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, as the new chief of the Supreme National Security Council to replace his slain predecessor Ali Larijani, state television said.

Larijani, a powerful figure in the Islamic republic, was confirmed dead after Israel said it killed him in a strike last week, reports AFP from Tehran.

UN-backed 'action' for Hormuz Strait

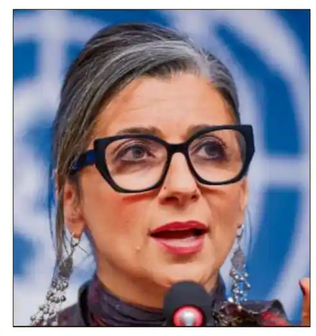
▸ UN Security Council members have begun negotiating resolutions to protect commercial shipping in and around the Strait of Hormuz, including a Bahraini draft that would authorise the use of "all necessary means" — language France has warned will be difficult to adopt.the enemy", reports Reuters.

The move underscores mounting regional concern that Iran could continue to threaten the strategic chokepoint, which carries about a fifth of global oil supplies.

UN expert says world gave Israel 'licence to torture Palestinians'

'Life in occupied land a continuum of physical & mental suffering'

GENEVA, AFP



Francesca Albanese, UN special rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian territories. REUTERS

The world has given Israel "a licence to torture Palestinians", a UN expert said on Monday, with life in the occupied territories "a continuum of physical and mental suffering".

Francesca Albanese, the UN's special rapporteur on rights situation in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, alleged that "torture has effectively become state policy" in Israel. "Israel has effectively been given a licence to torture Palestinians, because most of your governments, your ministers, have allowed it," she said, as she presented her latest report to the UN Human Rights Council.

Albanese has faced harsh criticism, allegations of anti-Semitism and demands for her removal, from Israel and some of its allies, over her relentless criticism and long-standing accusations of "genocide".

"Francesca Albanese is not a promoter of human rights; she is an agent of chaos... and any document she produces is nothing but a politically-charged, activist rant," Israel's mission in Geneva said in a statement Monday.

Albanese's report claimed Israel was systematically torturing Palestinians on a scale "that suggests collective vengeance and destructive intent".

"Torture extends far beyond prison walls, in what can only be described as a torturous environment imposed by Israel across the entire occupied Palestinian territory," she told the Human Rights Council.

"The testimonies that I and many others are documenting are not only tragic stories of suffering; they are evidence of atrocity crimes targeting the totality of the Palestinian people, across the totality of the occupied land, through a totality of criminal conduct," she said.

Albanese warned that the international response would be a test of countries' collective legal and moral responsibility.

WORLD AT GLANCE

US Senate confirms new Homeland Security chief

▸ **WASHINGTON, AFP:** The US Senate on Monday confirmed Markwayne Mullin as the new chief of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the agency reeling from a partial government shutdown as it works to enforce President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown.

Senators voted 54-45 for 48-year-old Republican Mullin, a former wrestler and martial arts fighter who previously served as a senator for Oklahoma.

Mullin replaces Kristi Noem as DHS head, after she was fired earlier this month in part for her handling of the recent large-scale operation against undocumented migrants in Minnesota, during which federal immigration agents shot dead two protesters who were US citizens.

Nasa to spend $20 billion on moon base

▸ **WASHINGTON, REUTERS:** NASA is cancelling plans to deploy a space station in lunar orbit and will instead use its components to construct a $20 billion base on the moon's surface over the next seven years, its new chief Jared Isaacman said on Tuesday.

Isaacman, who was sworn in at the agency in December, made the announcement at the opening of a day-long event at Nasa's Washington headquarters at which he outlined a raft of changes he is making to the agency's flagship moon program Artemis.

"It should not really surprise anyone that we are pausing Gateway in its current form and focusing on infrastructure that supports sustained operations on the lunar surface," Isaacman told delegates at the event.

Australia, EU agree sweeping new trade pact

▸ **CANBERRA, AFP:** EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese struck a long-awaited free trade deal in Canberra on Tuesday, compromising to boost exports in the face of global uncertainty over trade.

A defence and security partnership to boost maritime and cyber security cooperation was also agreed.

"The EU and Australia may be geographically far apart but we couldn't be closer in terms of how we see the world," said von der Leyen.

"We are sending a strong signal to the rest of the world that friendship and cooperation is what matters most in times of turbulence," she added.

"This is a significant moment for our nation as we secure an agreement with the world's second largest economy," Albanese said.

Denmark votes in election amid Greenland crisis

▸ **COPENHAGEN, AFP:** Danes began voting on Tuesday in general elections, with Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen seen as the favourite after standing up to US President Donald Trump over Greenland.

The latest polls give the left-wing bloc, for which Frederiksen is the self-proclaimed candidate, a nine-seat lead over the right-wing bloc, but neither side is projected to win a majority of the 179 seats in Denmark's parliament, the Folketing.

Frederiksen, a Social Democrat who has been in office since 2019, has been praised for her leadership after fending off Trump's repeated demands to annex Greenland, a Danish autonomous territory he claims the United States needs for national security reasons.

Pak most polluted country in world; India ranks sixth

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan was ranked the most polluted country in the world in 2025, followed by Bangladesh and Tajikistan, while India ranked sixth, according to an annual report by Swiss-based air quality firm IQAir released on Tuesday.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) country ranking shows that PM2.5 concentration in Pakistan is currently 13.5 times the World Health Organisation annual PM2.5 guideline value.

Founded in 1963, IQAir measures air quality based on the annual average concentration of airborne particulate matter, specifically PM2.5, its official website said. Among all the cities, Faisalabad in Punjab province, with an average AQI of 181, was the most polluted city last year, while Haripur in northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the cleanest city.

According to the report released by the Swiss firm, the PM2.5 concentration in Pakistan was 67 µm per metre cube.

Taiwan to skip WTO conference

TAIPEI, AFP: Taiwan said on Tuesday it will skip a high-level World Trade Organization meeting for the first time following a dispute with host nation Cameroon over the name used for the democratic island in visa documents.

The Taiwanese foreign ministry said it had lodged a "stern protest" after Cameroon designated the island "Taiwan, Province of China" in paperwork issued to the island's delegation before it departed for the March 26-29 event.

India, US to augment defence ties for Indo-Pacific stability

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Washington, DC, and New Delhi understand the importance of military power to ensure stability in Indo-Pacific, a senior official of President Donald Trump's administration said on Tuesday, even as uncertainty continued over the fate of Quad, a coalition India, Australia, Japan and the United States had forged to counter China's dominance in the region.

"Both of our countries benefit from an Indo-Pacific in which no power can dominate the region. Both benefit from open trade and national autonomy. These are the concrete, shared interests that form the foundation of our enduring strategic partnership," Under Secretary for Policy at the US Department of War, Elbridge Colby, said in New Delhi. "We both recognise the strategic centrality of military power for a stable balance in the region, and thus that defence cooperation should enhance real capability rather than be merely totemic or driven by inertia."

Colby and his counterpart at the Ministry of Defence in New Delhi, Rajesh Kumar Singh, will co-chair the India-US defence policy dialogue on Wednesday. The senior Trump Administration official said that the US was committed to working with India to hasten and augment cooperation in areas including but not limited to long-range precision fires, resilient logistics, maritime domain awareness, anti-submarine warfare, and advanced technologies.

The sign of a thaw in the relations between Washington, D.C., and Beijing after Trump met with President Xi Jinping in South Korea in October 2025, however, cast a shadow of uncertainty over the Quad – a coalition forged by India, Japan, Australia and the US to counter China.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(An agency of Greater Bengaluru Authority for SWM)
Reg.Office:30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560051.

Ref. No.: CGM(Tech)/PS/PR/115*/2025-26 Dated: 28.01.2026

:: Public Notice ::

Management of Bulk Waste through Authorized Waste Processor in Bengaluru South City Corporation jurisdiction

{M/s Sustainable Impacts Private Limited (partner company- M/s Hasiru Dala Innovations Private Limited)-AWP No.: S-298031620605056211 2}

1. Whereas, the local authorities to notify SWM Bye- Laws under rule-15(zf) and accordingly, SWM Bye-Laws notified in Gazette vide reference No.: Addl.Comm/SWM/PR/G-/9266/2019-20, dated: 20.04.2020.
2. Chapter-VII states about duties of bulk waste generators.
3. The bye-law 20(1)(a&b)) and 21(2/3/4/5) of SWM Bye-Law 2020 states about identification of bulk waste generators and availing services of Authorized Waste Processors(AWPs) for scientific management of solid waste and domestic hazardous & sanitary waste.
4. The bye-law 21(7) of SWM Bye-Law 2020 states about the intimation to be given to authority (BSWML) about availing the services of Authorized Waste Processors authorized by the concerned authority (BSWML).
5. Whereas, rule-4(3) of SWM Rules-2016 states about payment of user fees by waste generators as notified and also, rule-15(f) states about collection of user fees from waste generators.
6. Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi has also directed and stressed upon implementation of **"Polluter Pays Principle"** in its several judgment orders issued in OA No.:606/2018.
7. The Government of Karnataka notified user fee vide reference No.: UDD 500 MNY 2024(E), dated: 04.03.2025 in which maximum service charge for bulk waste management is capped at Rs.12/- per kg. Waste Generator may negotiate with AWPs for mutually agreed service charge.
8. The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited being an agency of Greater Bengaluru Authority in exercise of the powers conferred under section 272(1) of GBG Act 2024, SWM Bye-Laws 2020 and SWM Rules 2016; by following due diligence and strictly adhering to the transparent procedure, has empaneled **M/s Sustainable Impacts Private Limited as Authorized Waste Processor(certificate no. S-298031620605056211 2)** and mapped to the jurisdiction of and mapped to the jurisdiction of Bengaluru South City Corporation(order dated:28.01.2026) authorizing them to engage with the bulk waste generators to operate for collection, transportation, processing and disposal strictly in accordance with the SWM Rules-2016 and BBMP SWM Bye-Laws 2020. Mandated to operate the fleet digitally to facilitate waste generators for submission of digitized reports. The AWP shall deploy eco-friendly vehicles replacing old vehicles in phased manner.
9. Previous contractual engagement of bulk waste generators with this M/s Sustainable Impacts Private Limited (partner company- M/s Hasiru Dala Innovations Private Limited) in any other jurisdiction (apart from Bengaluru South City Corporation) shall by virtue of order dated: 28.01.2026, automatically transfer to the Authorized Waste processor mapped to respective jurisdiction of the corporation. Example: M/s Ecosphere Waste Solutions-a Subsidiary of M/s Mukka Proteins Limited-AWP No.: EN-298031620230056214 9 is mapped to Bengaluru North & East City Corporation; BWGs in these jurisdictions shall tie up with this AWP only and vice versa. If any pending bills of exsiting agency shall have to be cleared within 31-03-2026. Waste generators may visit **https://bswml.karnataka.gov.in** for more information.
10. M/s Sustainable Impacts Private Limited (partner company-M/s Hasiru Dala Innovations Private Limited) shall explore the possibility of aligning existing genuine operators under them as aggregators but in line with the policy laid down by BSWML. In no case offline transaction through aggregators is permitted. **In no case will any BWG have any offline transaction, and the contracting, billing and payments have to be only with M/s Sustainable Impacts Private Limited (partner company – Hasiru Dala Innovations Private Limited).**

- It is notified for strict acknowledgment/adoption by all the bulk waste generators {as per bye law-20(1)} viz. residential/commercial/institutional/others in the jurisdiction of Bengaluru South City Corporation only to tie up with the M/s Sustainable Impacts Private Limited (partner company-Hasiru Dala Innovations Private Limited) an Authorized Waste Processor(AWP certificate no. S-298031620605056211 2) with immediate effect for scientific management of bulk waste to be compliant and adhered to statutory rules/laws.
- It is notified that none other than M/s Sustainable Impacts Private Limited (partner company-Hasiru Dala Innovations Private Limited-AWP certificate no. S-298031620605056211 2) is/are authorized/empanelled as Authorized Waste Processor (AWP) of Greater Bengaluru Authority in the jurisdiction of Bengaluru South City Corporation.
- It is also, notified for information/acknowledgement of all bulk waste generators in the jurisdiction of Bengaluru South City Corporation that any non-compliance will attract penalty in accordance with the SWM Bye Laws, Environmental Compensation in accordance with the CPCB Guidelines and action in accordance with the provisions of GBGA 2024.
- The Bulk Waste Generators shall submit quarterly return in the form of digitized report generated by AWPs to BSWML as required in compliance to bye-law 14(7) of SWM Bye-Law 2020.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech)/CE
Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No.: KERC/SC(F)/Wind Tariff/2025 Date: **24.03.2026**

NOTICE

Sub:- Discussion paper on "The Determination of Generic Ceiling Tariff for Wind Power Projects for the purpose of Bidding for the Period FY 2026-27 to FY 2028-29" - comments invited

The Commission has issued a discussion paper on "The Determination of Generic Ceiling Tariff for Wind Power Projects for the purpose of Bidding for the Period FY2026-27 to FY2028-29" which is made available on the Commission's website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in**

Stakeholders/interested persons may submit their written objections/comments/suggestions on the above discussion paper to the Secretary, **KERC or before 09-04-2026.**

Sd/- Secretary
Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

DIPR/CP/YC/6423/2025-26

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (Co-Ordination & Planning), 4th Floor, Jayanagara Commercial Complex, Jayanagara 4th Block, Bengaluru - 560041.

No:EE/(CO&P)/E-Procurement Tender/05/2025-26 Date: 24-03-2026

PUBLIC TENDER NOTIFICATION - (2nd CALL)
(Through Govt. of Karnataka E-Procurement E-Auction only)

The Executive Engineer (Co-Ordination & Planning) Division hereby invites Tenders through e-Auction for Leasing out the Vacant Floors in the Jayanagar New (Sir M. Visvesvaraya Building) Commercial Complex (Block-1) located in Jayanagar 4th Block for Office use subject to terms and conditions, as per the details below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Renting of Third (3rd) Floor for Office Space at Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Shopping Complex Building, New Complex 4th Block, Jayanagara. **Area (Sq.ft.): 4897.62, Contract Period: 5 Years or 60 Months, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00,** Cost of Tender Form (in Rs.): As per E-Procurement Portal.
2	Renting of Sixth (6th) Floor for Office Space at Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Shopping Complex Building, New Complex 4th Block, Jayanagara. **Area (Sq.ft.): 4897.62, Contract Period: 5 Years or 60 Months, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00,** Cost of Tender Form (in Rs.): As per E-Procurement Portal.

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last Date for Submission of Tender Documents: **06-04-2026 and** the Live Auction Bidding will be Opened on the e-Portal on **08-04-2026 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM. 3)** Public who wish to participate in the tender bidding can obtain further details from the above mentioned office during office hours or from the e-Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Co-Ordination & Planning), BSCC.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Finance Department)
FISCAL POLICY INSTITUTE (FPI)
Bangalore-Mysore Road, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560 060.
Ph: 080-2697 1000, Website: www.fpibengaluru.karnataka.gov.in

No.: FPI-PROC0TNDR(GRDN)/1/2025-ADMN Date: 25.03.2026

e-Tender Notification

Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI) invites Tender through e-procurement in two-covers mode, from the reputed agencies for the following service.

"To Provide Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Maintenance of Garden, Landscape and Potted Plants etc., in Fiscal Policy Institute"- Call 4.

Last date: **01.04.2026 till 3.00 PM.**

The Tender details may be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- For Director
Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI)

DIPR/CP/YC/6424/2025-26

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forest, HRB Colony, Opp. Phoenix Mall, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048.
e-mail: acfeastgba@gmail.com

No: ACF/BECC/TENDER/98/2025-26 Date: 24.03.2026

Short Term Tender Notification
(Two Cover System) (Only through KPP Portal)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, BECC, Bangalore invites works tenders from Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration CPWD/KPWD/ FOREST/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed in the table below.

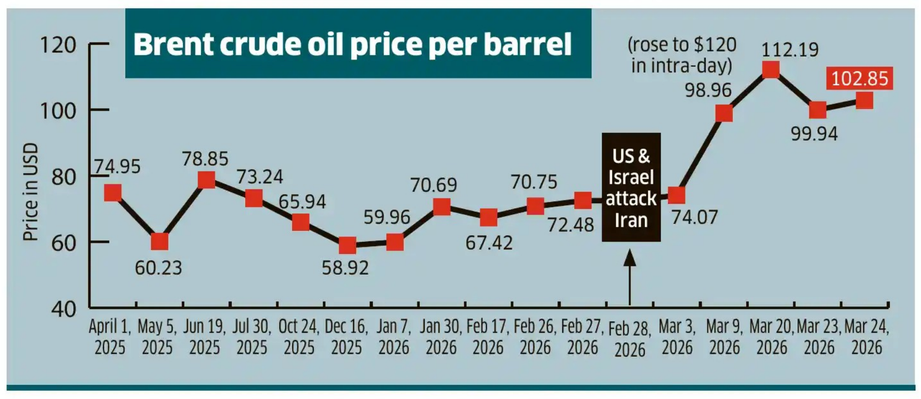
Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Bangalore East City Corporation Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management Team during the year 2026-27 Day Team. **Tender Cost (₹ in Lakhs) : 40.00, EMD (in ₹) 80,000/-.**
2.	Bangalore East City Corporation K. R. Puram Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27 Day Team. **Tender Cost (₹ in Lakhs) : 40.00, EMD (in ₹) 80,000/-.**
3.	Bangalore East City Corporation Tree canopy management during the year 2026-27 Zone - 1&2, Night Team. **Tender Cost (₹ in Lakhs) : 40.00, EMD (in ₹) 80,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from **: 25.03.2026 after 4:00 p.m. onwards. (2)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries **30.03.2026 upto 5:30 p.m. (3)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting at **30.03.2026 4:00 p.m.** at the above address. **(4)** Last Date and Time for uploading of Tender in Procurement Portal **04.04.2026 upto 5:30 p.m. (5)** Opening of technical document on **06.04.2026 at 11:00 a.m. (6)** Address for Communication is above mentioned address.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forest, BECC.

How India keeps petrol, diesel prices stable despite surge in crude price

Surge in crude prices has led to a jump in costs of OMCs



GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The West Asia conflict has caused massive disruption in the global energy market, with crude oil prices surging by more than 40%. This has led to a sharp jump in energy prices globally. In India, however, so far the increase has been limited to cooking gas and industrial diesel and high-grade petrol.

Retail prices of normal petrol and diesel remain largely unchanged since May 2022. Officially, petrol and diesel prices are fully deregulated in India. Petrol was deregulated in June 2010, while diesel was freed in October 2014. This means, retail prices of petrol and diesel are decided by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) based on their input costs. The bulk of their cost is related to crude oil.

India imports nearly 85% of its crude oil requirements. The surge in crude prices in the international markets has led to a jump in costs of OMCs. As the selling price remains unchanged, the margins have come under pressure.

According to ICICI Securities, OMCs are now facing a loss of Rs 13.5 per litre on retail sale of diesel and Rs 1 per litre on normal petrol.

How does it impact OMCs

Despite the deregulation, OMCs have been absorbing the impact of the fluctuations in crude price in the international markets. The operating framework of OMCs is referred to as counter-cyclical leverage model. This means that when the crude oil prices were low, OMCs kept retail prices at elevated levels, leading to higher margins and profits.

Since May 2022, the last major change in retail price of petrol and diesel, crude oil prices have fluctuated from over $100 per barrel, to $60 a barrel. This means that when the crude oil price was at $60 a barrel, OMCs were making higher profits. The high profits made during the period of low crude oil price, can help absorb part of the losses incurred by the OMCs now.

Crude oil price is the primary, but not the sole determiner of petrol and diesel prices in the country. The retail prices of petrol and diesel are also impacted by the factors like exchange rate, shipping charges, inland freight, refinery margin, dealer commission, central taxes, state VAT and other cost elements.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has tinkered with central taxes multiple times that have led to significant increase and decline in retail prices of key petroleum products. Value-added tax (VAT) imposed by states also form a substantial portion of the retail prices of petrol and diesel in the country. In fact, the wide variance in the price of petrol and diesel from state to state is largely due to VAT.

Stock prices of OMCs – Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum – have slumped by around 20% in the past one month. Share price of IOC slumped from Rs 187.50 recorded on February 27, to Rs 138.40 on March 24 on the BSE.

Discounted Russian oil played a key role in keeping margins of OMCs high, despite a spike in crude oil price in 2022, following the outbreak of the Russian-Ukraine war. Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri has said multiple times that Russian crude helped in keeping oil prices stable not only in India, but also globally, by preventing the surge.

The PM on Tuesday reiterated the government's commitment to procure oil and gas from all possible sources.

"Earlier, India imported crude oil, LNG, and LPG from 27 countries. Today, India imports energy from 41 countries," Modi told Rajya Sabha.

In the past decade, India has also prioritised crude reserves for times of crisis. "Our oil companies maintain significant reserves of petrol and diesel for emergencies. Over the past 11 years, more than 5.3 million metric tonnes of strategic petroleum reserves have been developed, and the country is working on arrangements for reserves exceeding 6.5 million metric tonnes," he said.

"Alongside this, India's refining capacity has also been substantially increased in the past decade," he added.

QatarEnergy declares force majeure on LNG contracts

BENGALURU, REUTERS: QatarEnergy on Tuesday declared force majeure on some of its affected long-term LNG supply contracts, with counterparties including customers in Italy, Belgium, South Korea, and China.

Markets jump 2% as strikes halt on Iran's energy infra

Sensex jumps 1,372 points or 1.89%, to settle at 74,068

MUMBAI, PTI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded by nearly 2% on Tuesday, tracking a relief rally in Asian peers after US President Donald Trump announced a temporary halt on strikes targeting Iranian energy infrastructure.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,372.06 points or 1.89% to settle at 74,068.45. During the day, it soared 1,793 points or 2.46% to 74,489.39. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 399.75 points or 1.78% to end at 22,912.40.

From the 30-Sensex firms, L&T, InterGlobe Aviation, Eternal, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance and UltraTech Cement were the biggest winners. Power Grid and SBI were the only laggards from the pack.

Trump said on social media that he has extended the deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and that he will hold off strikes against Iranian energy sites for five days.

"Indian equities witnessed a constructive rebound, with markets closing on a positive note after the sharp sell-off in the previous session. The recovery was largely driven by a moderation in risk perception, as early signs of potential de-escalation in the ongoing US-Iran tensions helped restore some investor confidence," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said.

"After a sharp, sentiment-driven correction, such rebounds are not uncommon and often reflect a combination of short covering and value buying. Investors typically use such dislocations to accumulate quality stocks at relatively attractive valuations, rather than it being a signal of a structural trend reversal," Hariprasad added.

Investors' wealth surged by Rs 7.56 lakh crore to Rs 4,22,78,312.77 crore. The BSE MidCap Select index jumped 2.77% and SmallCap Select index climbed 2.29%.

Rupee slumps 23 paise against $

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee dropped 23 paise to close at 93.76 against the dollar on Tuesday, as a strengthening greenback against major crosses and elevated global crude prices spooked investors.

At the interbank forex, it opened at 93.66 against the dollar and remained volatile through the session. It eventually settled at 93.76, down 23 paise from its previous close. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.23% higher at 99.18.

India's economic activity slows on Iran war, PMIs show

BLOOMBERG

India's economic activity slowed in March, with manufacturing slumping to its lowest in nearly 4.5 years, as factories curtailed output due to gas shortages triggered by the war in Iran, a flash survey by HSBC Holdings Plc showed.

The manufacturing purchasing managers' index fell to 53.8 from 56.9 in February, while the services index fell to 57.2 from 58.1 last month. That pulled the composite index down to 56.5 from 58.9.

The indexes reflect business confidence in the economy and are based on preliminary surveys. The data may be revised when final PMI figures are released next month. A reading above 50 signals expansion in economic activity, while a print below that indicates contraction.

The government imposed emergency measures and rationed gas supplies to prioritise households after Iran effectively shut the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for India's energy imports. The shortage has disrupted industries from fertiliser and aluminum production to helium used in semiconductor manufacturing, raising the risk of a prolonged drag on growth.

Many hotels and restaurants across the country had to shut down temporarily, along with industrial units dependent on gas.

"Output growth eased across both manufacturing and services as the energy shock unfolds," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC in a statement on Tuesday. "Softer domestic demand weighed on new orders, which rose at the slowest pace in more than three years, despite a record surge in new export orders," she added.

March's increase in factory output was the softest since August 2021, HSBC said in its statement. Manufacturers suffered the most and "companies indicated that the West Asia war, unstable market conditions and inflationary pressures all dampened growth".

Firms absorbed a large part of their additional cost burdens, while price pressures were felt more intensely in the services sector. Despite the slowdown, the private sector firms continued to recruit new staff, albeit at a moderate pace, HSBC said.

Manipal Health files IPO papers; eyes Rs 8k-cr via fresh issue

NEW DELHI, PTI: Temasek-backed hospital chain Manipal Health Enterprises has filed preliminary papers with Sebi to raise funds through an IPO, comprising a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 8,000 crore.

Apart from the fresh issue, there will be an OFS of 43,227,668 equity shares by promoters — Imperius Healthcare Investments Pte Ltd, Manipal Education and Medical Group India, and investors — TPG SG Magazine Pte Ltd, Seventy Second Investment Company LLC, Ammar Sdn Bhd, Novo Holdings Invest Asia A/S, Phoenix Bear Investments, LLC, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus filed on Monday.

Proceeds from its fresh issuance worth Rs 5,378 crore will be utilised for loan payments availed by the company's arm, Manipal Hospitals; Rs 574 crore for acquiring a minority stake in the company's subsidiary, Sahyadri Hospitals, and for general corporate purposes. The company may consider a pre-IPO Placement for up to Rs 1,600 crore. If such an initiative is completed, the fresh issue size will be reduced.

Manipal Health Enterprises operates a pan-India network of multi-speciality hospitals, covering cardiology, oncology, neurosurgery, gastrointestinal science, orthopedics, liver transplant and kidney transplant, among others.

On the financial front, its revenue from operations stood at Rs 8,242.2 crore, with a net profit of Rs 1,081.6 crore during FY25.

HDFC Bank appoints external law firms to probe ex-chairman's charges

BENGALURU, DHNS: HDFC Bank on Tuesday announced the appointment of external law firms (domestic and international) to investigate and submit a report on the reasons for the sudden exit of Atanu Chakraborty as its part-time chairman and independent director.

Atanu Chakraborty

In a stock exchange filing, the bank's company secretary said, "Chakraborty did not mention any happenings and practices which were not in congruence with his personal values and ethics. To reinforce the robust governance standards of the bank, the board of directors of the bank at its meeting on Monday took a proactive step and approved the appointment of external law firms."

Chakraborty suddenly resigned as chairman of HDFC Bank, citing ethical concerns, on March 18. "Certain happenings and practices within the bank that I have observed over the last two years, are not in congruence with my personal values and ethics. This is the basis of my aforementioned decision," he said in his resignation letter.

In his letter to the Chairman of Governance, Nomination, Remuneration Committee HK Bhanwala, Chakraborty said that "there are no other material reasons for my resignation".

Chakraborty, a 1985-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, was appointed part-time chairman of the bank with effect from May 5, 2021.

Embedded world India to be part of BTS

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology, Government of Karnataka, and NuernbergMesse India on Tuesday announced that embedded world India will be co-located with Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026, to be held from November 17-19, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC).

India's embedded systems market is growing rapidly, driven by demand across smart manufacturing, electric mobility, telecommunications, healthcare and connected devices. Government initiatives such as the India Semiconductor Mission and production-linked incentives have attracted over $21 billion in semiconductor investments, strengthening India's role in global supply chains. The market is projected to grow from $34.3 billion in 2023 to over $100 billion by 2032, with India contributing nearly 20% of the global semiconductor design workforce.

Karnataka contributes around 10% of India's electronics output and is the country's largest semiconductor design hub. The state is home to over 100 fabless chip design firms, generating nearly 40% of India's electronic design output and hosting about half of the nation's electronic product companies.

Against this backdrop, the co-location of embedded world India with BTS in Bengaluru will create a dynamic marketplace where embedded hardware, advanced system design, AI-powered devices and IoT technologies converge to drive new collaborations and innovations.

Russia stops ammonium nitrate exports for 1 month

MOSCOW, REUTERS: Russia, which controls up to 40% of the global trade in ammonium nitrate, said on Tuesday it will stop exports of the fertiliser for one month until April 21 to ensure sufficient supply during the spring planting season.

Russia, a major fertiliser exporter, lacks the capacity to boost production this year amid a global supply crunch caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 24% of global trade in ammonia, an ingredient of ammonium nitrate, passes.

The Agriculture Ministry said it had stopped all issued licences for ammonium nitrate exports, with the exception of those pertaining to government contracts.

AI security platform Datadog opens new office in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nasdaq-listed Datadog, an AI-powered observability and security platform for cloud applications, opened its new Bengaluru office at Embassy Golf Links Business Park on Tuesday.

The new office strengthens Datadog's presence in a key growth market, enabling faster support, deeper local expertise, and scalable solutions for customers.

Datadog has over 100 employees in India at present, serving over 400 organisations across commercial, midmarket, and enterprise segments. It supports many of the country's most-widely used digital platforms across food delivery, streaming and live sports, aviation, travel, fintech, e-commerce, and connected mobility.

"The Bengaluru office is more than a footprint expansion — it's a strategic command centre for one of Datadog's fastest-growing markets," said Namit D' Cruz, Regional VP for India and SAARC at Datadog. "Local organisations have moved decisively from AI experimentation to full-scale production, and they're hitting a wall: fragmented tooling, blind spots, and security vulnerabilities that legacy solutions can't address."

"Our investment in R&D and AI is what sets Datadog apart. We are fully-resourced and ready to scale alongside our customers here, with local talent," said D'Cruz.

Voice is next interface for commerce: Meesho co-founder

BENGALURU, DHNS: E-commerce firm Meesho believes that its newly-launched conversational voice shopping assistant, 'Vaani — Your Meesho Dost', can reduce returns and cancellations. The platform's co-founder and CTO, Sanjeev Kumar, on Tuesday said that early signals from the launch showed that 1.5 million users have already used it and that there is 22% improvement in conversion. "Voice is the next interface for commerce, and we are building the voice layer for the next 500 million users," Sanjeev Kumar said.

"Over the years, we have embedded AI and ML across every part of our marketplace, from discovery and pricing to logistics, trust and seller growth. Vaani is a natural extension of this journey," he added. The assistant understands user intent, asks follow-up questions, surfaces relevant products, and guides users through key steps in the purchase journey. Meesho plans to launch this in many Indian languages.

Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, V V W W Campus, K.R.S Main Road, Yadavagiri, Mysuru-570020.

TN No: MCC/EE-ELE/TN-22/2025-26 Date: 20.03.2026

Tender Notification-22

Through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal Only

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal for the works under General Fund: 2025-26 grant as required from Executive Engineer (Electrical) of the Mysuru City Corporation. Details are as follows:

Sl. No	Description	Total Works	Tender Amount (INR)	Date of Publishing on KPP-Portal	Last Date for Submission of Bids	Technical/Financial Bid opening Date
1	Tender Works (KW-1)	03	19.93	20.03.2026	30.03.2026	01.04.2026
2	Tender Works(KW-2)	01	25.00			
3	Re-Tender Works (KW-1)	02	8.32			
4	Goods Works (KG-2)	12	334.05	20.03.2026	30.03.2026	01.04.2026

Note: Any further changes/notifications will be published only through Karnataka Public-Procurement portal only and will not release any paper notification.

DIPR/MYSORE/1874/Shirdi Sai/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical), Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/ 22/2025-26 Date: 24.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the services mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

SL No	Name of the services	Estimate amount (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	**Package-1:** Conducting 3 Large Scale Workshops on Swachh Survekshan, Solid Waste Management and implementation of effective waste Management and 2 National level Workshops on Institutionalizing Best Practices under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) U-2.0.Call-3.	318.00	9 Months	4,77,000.00
2	**Package-2:** Providing Training and Capacity Building for 30% of the Staff including Executive, Technical Executive, Technical, Supervisory and Pourakarmika, drivers and helpers staffs across themes of Solid Waste Management, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) U-2.0. - Call-2.	279.60	3 Months	4,19,400.00
3	**Package-3:** Providing Training and Capacity Building for 35% of the Staff including Executive, Technical Executive, Technical, Supervisory and Pourakarmika, drivers and helpers staffs across themes of Solid Waste Management, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) U-2.0. - Call-2.	349.00	3 Months	5,23,500.00
4	**Package-4:** Providing Training and Capacity Building for 35% of the Staff including Executive, Technical Executive, Technical, Supervisory and Pourakarmika, drivers and helpers staffs across themes of Solid Waste Management, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) U-2.0. - Call-2.	349.00	3 Months	5,23,500.00
5	**Package-5:** Conducting Advanced Level Training for 50% of the Staff including Executive, Technical, Supervisory and Pourakarmika, drivers and helpers across themes of Solid Waste Management, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) U-2.0. - Call-2.	489.30	6 Months	7,34,000.00
6	**Package-6:** Conducting Advanced Level Training for 50% of the Staff including Executive, Technical, Supervisory and Pourakarmika, drivers and helpers across themes of Solid Waste Management, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) U-2.0. - Call-2.	489.30	6 Months	7,34,000.00
7	**Package-7:** Providing Refresher Training for 50% of the Staff including Executive, Technical and Pourakarmika staffs across themes of Solid Waste Management, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) U-2.0. - Call-2.	488.60	9 Months	7,32,900.00
8	**Package-8:** Providing Refresher Training for 50% of the Staff including Executive, Technical and Pourakarmika staffs across themes of Solid Waste Management, Sanitation and Used Water Management under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) U-2.0. - Call-2.	488.60	9 Months	7,32,900.00

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **26.03.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs. in KPP Portal. (2)** Pre bid meeting: **27.03.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM-2 (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore. **(3)** Last date for submission of the bids: **01.04.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bid on : **02.04.2026 at 16.30 Hrs. (5)** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

DIPR/CP/6434/SHIRDI SAI/2025-26

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.

Cherie Chevalier wins Telangana Plate

HYDERABAD RESULTS

KSV Prasad Raju-trained Cherie Chevalier, ridden by Neeraj Rawal, won the Telangana Plate, the feature event of the Hyderabad races here on Wednesday.

1. Business Tycoon Plate 1400M: Catchme If You Can (Antony Raj) 1; Sadiya (P Ajeeth Kumar) 2; Smart Boy (BR Kumar) 3; Sucker Punch (Rafique Sk) 4; NR: Take A Breath; WB:3-1/4, 4-1/4, 2-1/4L. T: 1:29.07; TB: Magan Sing; Fav: Catch Me You Can.
2. Rising Star Plate 1200M: The Last Avtar (Akshay Kumar) 1; Advait (Antony Raj) 2; Excalibur (P Ajeeth Kumar) 3; She's A Bomb (HM Akshay) 4; WB: 2, 2-3/4, 1 1/2L. T: 1-13.74. TB: K Satheesh. Fav: Advait.
3. Brave Hunter Plate 1200M: Ayushman (Kuldeep Singh) 1; Emerald Touch (A Asbar) 2; Greif (Akshay Kumar) 3; Turiya (Antony Singh) 4; WB: 1/2, 1/2, 3-1/2L; T: 1:13.07. TB: D Netto; Fav: Greif.
4. Medchal Plate 1200M: Arthisha (Akshay Singh) 1; Konaseema (NR Santosh Raj) 2; Onslaught (A Asbar) 3; December Caspian (Md Ekram Alam) 4; WB: 2-1/2, 3-1/2, 2-3/4L; T: 1:13.71. TB: Magan Singh; Fav: Konaseema.
5. Khammam Plate 1800M: Andre (Antony Raj) 1; Corte Madera (Akshay Kumar) 2; Pride Aside (B Nikhil) 3; China Town (P Ajeeth Kumar) 4; WB: 3-3/4, 1, 2L; T: 1:54.20. TB: Bharath Singh; Fav: Corte Madera.
6. Telangana Plate 1600M: Cherie Chevalier (Neeraj Rawal) 1; Reigning Beauty (Md Ismail) 2; NRI Superpower (BR Kumar) 3; Truth (I Chisty) 4; WB: 3-1/4, 1, 2L. T: 1:39.72; TB: KSV Prasad Raju Fav: Cherie Chevalier.
7. Malvado Plate 1100M: Noorian (Akshay Kumar) 1; Dhanadeepa (Antony Raj) 2; Iconic Star (Rafique Sk) 3; Niloufer The Great (Afroz Khan) 4; WB: 2, 1/2, 3-3/4L; T: 1:08.42; TB: SSF Hassan; Fav: Dhanadeepa.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 16w, Rs 11, Rs 12, Rs 14p; Fc: Rs 53; Q: Rs 51; SHP: Rs 27; THP: Rs 36, Tri: Rs 224 & Rs 133; Exp: Rs 5080 & Rs 3537.
II race: Rs 58w, Rs 16, Rs 11, Rs 18p; Fc: Rs 189; Q: Rs 37; SHP: Rs 36; THP: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 406 & Rs 233. Exp: Rs 10461 & Rs 9764.
III race: Rs 45w, Rs 16, Rs 16, Rs 10p; Fc: Rs 422; Q: Rs 140; SHP: Rs 35; THP: Rs 79; Tri: Rs 635 & Rs 139. Exp: Rs 1142 & Rs 602.
IV race: Rs 28w, Rs 15, Rs 14, Rs 19p; Fc: Rs 75; Q: Rs 26; SHP: Rs 35; THP: Rs 79; Tri: Rs 238 & Rs 119. Exp: Rs 7947 & Rs 10280.
V race: Rs 21w, Rs 10, Rs 11, Rs 13; Fc: Rs 27; Q: Rs 12; SHP: Rs 26; THP: Rs 21; Tri: Rs 78 & Rs 62. Exp: Rs 83 & Rs 66.
VI race: Rs 14w, Rs 10, Rs 32, Rs 11; Fc: Rs 280. Q: Rs 216; SHP: Rs 175; THP: Rs 34. Tri: Rs 360 & Rs 87; Exp: Rs 968 & Rs 522.
VII race: Rs 29w, Rs 15, R 10, Rs 62; Fc: Rs 50; Q: Rs 37; SHP: Rs 33. THP: Rs 196; Tri: Rs 1171 & Rs 1450; Exp: Rs 10077 & Rs 1570.
I Jackpot: Rs 2176 & Rs 322; **I treble:** Rs 2085; **II treble:** Rs 126

Ashwa Changez for feature

DELHI SELECTIONS

Ashwa Changez, trained by S Nawab and to be ridden by jockey Vivek G, will garner the maximum support in the Yodha Plate, the feature event of the races on Wednesday. The first race starts at 2:15 pm.

1. The Garud Plate 1400M: Ashwa Denali 1, Daring Diva 2. Ustaad Ji 3.
2. The Yodha Plate (Div I) 1400M: Ashwa Changez 1, Master Multitude 2, Divit 3.
3. The Yodha Plate (Div II) 1400M: Ashwa Sultan 1, Vedagarbha 2, Chieftain 3.
4. The Pratap Plate (Div I) 1100M: Beat Goes On 1, Royal Baby 2, Sunveer 3.
5. The Pratap Plate (Div II) 1100M: Magic Spell 1, Jet Thunder 2, Eastern Crown 3.
6. The Trinetra Plate 1000 M: Super Speed 1, Weronika 2, Ashwa Supremo 3.
Day's Best: Magic Spell. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Compound men dominate as India top six events

BANGKOK, PTI: India's young recurve archers rose to the occasion while the seasoned compound men stamped their authority, as the country topped qualification in six events at the Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 1, here on Tuesday.

Fi0elding a second-string side in the absence of several top names, India made a strong start to the new international season by finishing on top in men's compound individual and team events, men's recurve team, women's compound team, and both recurve and compound mixed team events.

The recurve men's trio of Devaang Gupta, Sukhchain Singh and Juyel Sarkar led the charge, powering India to the top seeding in the team event and a direct entry into the quarterfinals, where they will face the winners of the tie between Bhutan (No. 9) and Mongolia (No. 8). China and Kazakhstan finished second and third respectively.

Devaang, one of India's brightest young prospects who recently won gold at the Khelo India University Games and a silver at the 2024 Pan American Championships, was the best-placed Indian in the individual rankings at third with 663 points, just four behind top-ranked neutral archer Kirill Batuev.

Priyanka, Krishik grab golds at Indoor Nationals

Kalyan adds to Karnataka's tally with an 800m silver medal

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's track athletes Priyanka C and Krishik Manjunatha won gold medals in the women's 3000m and men's 60m hurdles respectively on the opening day of the inaugural National Indoor Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday.

Kalyan JR grabbed the third Karnataka medal on the day as he won the silver behind favourite Mohammed Afsal in the men's 800m final.

Priyanka, meanwhile, became the first woman athlete to win gold at the Indoor Nationals. The 22-year-old runner, who is from Mandya district and trains in Bengaluru under coach OP Jaisha, clocked 9:42.05 to finish ahead of Gujarat's Kajal Kandwade (9:44.01) and Odisha's Sumita Tigga (10:22.30).

"It was a tricky race for me as I was competing in an indoor track for the first time. I wasn't expecting the track to be sloppy and doing 15 laps on it was new too but it was a great experience," Priyanka told *DH*.

Krishik, on the other hand, won a close 60m hurdles final in a photo finish with Reliance's Rathish Pandidurai as the 22-year-old hurdler clocked 7.71 seconds in the absence of national record holder Tejas Shirse (7.64).

Karnataka's Priyanka C (left) trails Gujarat's Kajal Kandwade during the women's 3000m final at the National Indoor Championships in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday.

In the men's 800m final, Air Force's Afsal set the fastest-ever timing in the indoor event at 1:47.86 while Kalyan (1:53.98) ensured the silver medal by finishing ahead of West Bengal's Sayan Karmakar in just a three-man final.

Meanwhile, India's leading women's pole vaulter Baranica Elangoan surpassed the overall national record, touching a height of 4.22m. The 29-year-old Tamil Nadu athlete jumped above the outdoor national record of 4.21m, which is currently held by Rosy Meena Paulraj since 2022.

Results: Men: 60m hurdles: Krishik M (Kar) 7.71s, 1; Rathish Pandidurai (Rel) 7.84, 2; Muhammed Lazan (JSW) 8.00, 3. **800m:** Mohammed Afsal (IAF) 1:47.86, 1; Kalyan JR (Kar) 1:53.98, 2; Sayan Karmakar (WB) 1:56.98, 3. **3000m:** Shivaji Parashuram (Rel) 8:09.88, 1; Vinod Singh (MP) 8:16.93, 2; Rahul Kumar Verma (Chh) 8:18.21. **Shot put:** Ravi Kumar (BSF) 17.17m, 1; Adhish Ghildiyal (Utr) 16.92, 2; Balaji (TN) 16.74, 3. **Long jump:** Sarun Payasingh (Odi) 7.80, 1; Praveen Chithravel (JSW) 7.78, 2; David P (Rai) 7.69, 3. **U-20: 800m:** Chirag Chaudhary (MP) 1:54.14, 1; Rajdip Pal (WB) 2:02.34, 2. **Shot put:** Ommkar Nanda (Odi) 17.77m, 1; Sai Kiran (NCOP) 17.00, 2; Harshit Gahlot (JSW) 16.98, 3. **Women: 800m:** Preeti Yadav (MP) 2:11.83, 1; Laxmipriya Kisan (Odi) 2:13.20, 2. **3000m:** Priyanka C (Kar) 9:42.05, 1; Kajal Kandwade (Guj) 9:44.01, 2; Susmita Tigga (Odi) 10:22.30, 3. **Long jump:** Anamika KA (JSW) 6.05, 1; Manisha Merel (Odi) 6.04, 2; Sherin A (JSW) 5.92, 3. **Pole vault:** Baranica Elangovan (TN) 4.22, 1; Blessy Kunjumon (Ker) 3.95m, 2; Mariya Jaison (Ker) 3.80m, 3. **U-20: Shot put:** Dona Maria Dony (Ker) 13.35m, 1; Khusboo (Har) 12.03, 2; Akshaya GR (TN) 11.89, 3.

Indian shooters set for shotgun World Cup

TANGIER (MOROCCO), PTI: Bhowneesh Mendiratta will aim to put the Paris Olympics heartbreak behind him and kick off the year on a high as he leads the Indian charge at the season-opening ISSF Shotgun World Cup, with an eye on a busy calendar culminating in the Asian Games and the World Championships later this year.

Trap marksman Bhowneesh, who had secured India's first quota for the Paris Olympics but missed out in the trials, will be keen to hit the ground running in Tangier as the qualification cycle for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics gets underway this year.

India is sending a 12-member squad for trap and skeet across the men's and women's events, along with two trap mixed teams, supported by a large contingent of foreign coaches, physiotherapists, and psychologists, even as top trap shooter Zoravar Singh Sandhu misses out on the lineup.

Last year, veteran trap shooter Zoravar became only the third Indian to win a World Championships medal, clinching bronze and joining the legendary Karni Singh and Manavjit Singh Sandhu in India's elite shooting history.

The 46-year-old, currently ranked fourth in the world by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), faces a tricky path to the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya this September-October, as team selection for the continental event requires participation in World Cups, meaning skipping them could jeopardise his qualification despite being India's top trap shooter.

Squad: Trap: Men: Prithviraj Tondaiman, Kynan Chenai, Bhowneesh Mendiratta.
Women: Kirti Gupta, Rajeshwari Kumari, Aashima Ahlawat.
Skeet: Men: Man Singh, Jyotiraditya Singh Sisodiya, Parampal Singh.
Women: Yashasvi Rathore, Darshana Rathore, Maheshwari Chauhan. Mixed team: Prithviraj Tondaiman & Kirti Gupta. Kynan Chenai & Rajeshwari Kumari.

TENNIS MIAMI OPEN

Sinner, Sabalenka show their might

Defending champ Mensik among several seeds to bite the dust

MIAMI, AFP

Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka kept their "Sunshine Double" dreams alive with emphatic victories at the ATP/WTA Miami Open on Monday as defending men's champion Jakub Mensik joined a slew of seeds who crashed out.

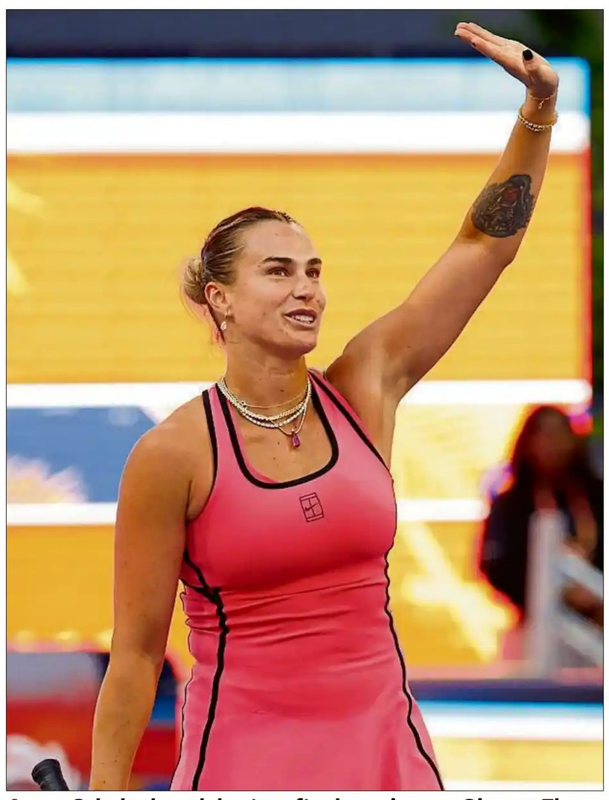
Sinner and Sabalenka are bidding to join an elite band of players who have won Indian Wells and the Miami Open back-to-back, and arrived in Florida brimming with confidence after their respective victories in the California desert earlier this month.

Women's world No. 1 Sabalenka, defending the Miami title she won for the first time last year, cruised into the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-4 demolition of China's 2024 Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen.

Sinner, who is chasing a second victory in Miami after lifting the title in 2024, was similarly comfortable in his third-round clash with French 30th seed Corentin Moutet, winning 6-1, 6-4 to advance to the last 16.

Fourth seed Coco Gauff downed Romanian veteran Sorana Cirstea 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, while fifth seed Jessica Pegula beat another Romanian, Jacqueline Cristian 6-4, 6-1.

Canada's Victoria Mboko, seeded 10, upset Russian eighth seed Mirra Andreeva 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-0 to set up a quarter-final with Czech 13th seed Karolina Muchova, who strolled past Alexandra Eala of the Philippines 6-0, 6-2.


Aryna Sabalenka celebrates after her win over Qinwen Zheng at the Miami Open in Florida on Monday. REUTERS

Mensik falls

In the men's draw, Italian second seed Sinner was always in control against France's Moutet on the Hard Rock Stadium's main court.

Sinner will face unseeded American Alex Michelsen in the last 16. Michelsen defeated Chile's Alejandro Tabilo 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 earlier Monday.

Defending champion Jakub Mensik was among the latest crop of seeds to tumble out, losing a gruelling three-setter against 19th seed Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (11).

Tiafoe will face France's Terence Atmane in the last 16. Atmane powered into the fourth round with a 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 upset of Canadian seventh seed Felix Auger-Aliassime on Monday.

Auger-Aliassime joined a lengthening list of seeds who have stumbled in the early rounds in Miami that includes Indian Wells runner-up Daniil Medvedev.

Yuki, Venus lose

India's Yuki Bhambri and his Kiwi partner Michael Venus made a first round exit from the Miami Open following a narrow loss to John-Patrick Smith and Sander Arends.

Yuki and Venus went down 6-4, 5-7, 13-15 in a round of 32 contest to the Australian-Dutch combine in one hour 52 minutes.

AIFF decides against retaining women's coach Valverde

NEW DELHI, PTI: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Tuesday decided against renewing the contract of Indian women's team's head coach Amelia Valverde after its technical committee led by IM Vijayan recommended that Indian names be considered to succeed the Costa Rican.

The Indian team returned winless from the AFC Asian Cup in Australia and was embroiled in a pre-tournament furore after players were handed ill-fitting jerseys, which were eventually replaced.

Valverde was appointed specifically for the tournament on a short three-month contract in January.

The AIFF's Technical Committee met online on Tuesday to discuss the future of both the men's and women's national teams.

The meeting was chaired by Vijayan, along with members Harjinder Singh, Shabbir Ali, Victor Amalraj, Climax Lawrence, and Santosh Singh.

The panel recommended that the Federation should "look at Indian coaches as possible options to take over as the head coach of the senior Indian women's national team..."

"The Technical Committee thanked Amelia Valverde, who led the Indian women's team as the head coach at the AFC Women's Asian Cup.

BFC hire Spaniard Munoz as new head coach

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru FC are all set to have a new foreign head coach as the Indian Super League club has roped in Spain's Pep Munoz halfway through the season.

While the details of the deal are awaited, the 46-year-old former FC Barcelona academy coach is likely to take over from current manager Renedy Singh as soon as possible. He could be at the helm of the team for the upcoming away match against FC Goa on April 4 as the paperwork for his arrival is in progress.

Renedy, who was appointed the head coach after Spanish gaffer Gerard Zaragoza left last November amid Indian football turmoil, will continue to be at the club but in a different capacity.

BFC's decision may surprise many as the club, under Renedy, has renewed its title challenge with a 3-1 victory over Inter Kashi last weekend in Kolkata, taking it just three points off table-toppers Mumbai City FC (14 points) in fifth place.

The managerial change comes at a time when five teams are in the race for the league title, including Mohun Bagan, Jamshedpur FC (13 points each) and East Bengal (11). However, the BFC management took the decision keeping in mind the long-term plans.

"The decision to hire Munoz is a long-term one as we want to give him time to build the team for the next season," said a BFC official. "And the move is not at the expense of Renedy as he has done a wonderful job and will continue to be at the club. But bringing a foreign coach was always our long-term plan."

Pep Munoz

Munoz, who becomes BFC's fourth Spanish and sixth foreign coach, has extensive experience working in Asia and comes to Bengaluru FC after winning back-to-back league titles with PKR Svay Rieng in the Cambodian Premier League. The Spanish tactician also won the Hun Sen Cup and Cambodian Super Cup while losing in the final of the 2025 AFC Challenge League after taking the role of head coach in 2023.

Before his Cambodia stint, the UEFA Pro License coach was part of the coaching staff of FC Barcelona that won the UEFA Youth League in 2013-14.

In 2016, he moved to Asia for the first time, joining Qingdao Huanghai FC in the Chinese second division, followed by the assistant coach role at Chinese top-tier club Shandong Luneng Taishan FC. He eventually became the assistant coach of the Chinese national team in 2022.

Australia-born Williams set to make India debut

NEW DELHI, PTI: Australian-born forward Ryan Williams could make his much-anticipated India debut after being named in head coach Khalid Jamil's 23-member squad for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifier against Hong Kong on March 31 in Kochi.

Ryan Williams

Williams was included in the squad after FIFA cleared his change of association, paving the way for the 31-year-old winger to represent India at the senior international level.

He had earlier been part of India's preparatory camp for the Bangladesh qualifier but missed out on the lineup due to pending documentation.

With all formalities now complete, he is in line to make his debut against Hong Kong.

LA28 unveils a bold, superbloom-inspired look

LOS ANGELES, AP: The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics has announced its official look, and it's a blast of bold colours.

The graphic patterns and colour palettes will be used to identify everything from credentials to staff uniforms to signage to competition venues and the athletes' village.

The concept announced on Monday is based on a California superbloom, a phenomenon that occurs every 10-15 years in the spring and results in a vibrant explosion of wildflowers across hills, valleys and deserts.

The LA28 design team studied past Olympic and Paralympic Games, including the 1984 Los Angeles Games, to inspire the look.

The orange Bird of Paradise, the city's official flower, inspired the primary colours used in the concept as well as the 13 blooms that make up the full Superbloom. Graphics were built on a precise grid, with visual density reduced closest to fields of play to keep athletes' focus unimpeded.

"We wanted the look to feel like Los Angeles itself," Geoff Engelhardt, LA28 head of brand design, said in a statement. "LA is a city of incredible creativity, sitting at the intersection of sport and entertainment, and the Games will bring the world together here in 2028."

Griezmann to leave Atletico

PARIS, AFP: Antoine Griezmann will leave Atletico Madrid for MLS side Orlando City at the end of the season, the two clubs announced on Tuesday.

Atletico's all-time record goalscorer has agreed a two-year deal with Orlando and will become the latest veteran star to move to North America.

In the twilight of her career, Joshna has eyes set on Asian Games

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

For over two decades, Joshna Chinappa has been the face of Indian sqaush. The 39-year-old, who turned pro in 2003, along with her peers Saurav Ghosal and Dipika Pallikal Karthik have carried the responsibility of keeping the sport relavent in the country through their performances inside a glass cage all around the world.

At the twilight of an eventful career, Joshna, while speaking to select reporters during promotional event by Asics here, said that she was still as committed as she has been since a kid with her eyes firmly set on the Asian Games in September. Except that the approach and perspective of being a professional athlete at the international circuit have seen a shift over the years.

"I'm not part of the race in terms of numbers," said Joshna, who has dropped to No. 72 in the world ranking but is still the second-best Indian behind 18-year-old Anahat Singh who is ranked 20. In the most-recent result, the veteran lost in the quarterfinal of the Indian Open in Mumbai last week.

Ace woman squash player Joshna Chinappa during a promotional event in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

"Being at this stage of my career, I kind of pick and choose my tournaments. The gruelling schedule is a lot on my body as well. So I make sure that I really prepare before every event. Of course, the Asian Games is at the back of my mind. I'm trying to make sure that I choose my tournaments wisely so that I can have my body fully fit and healthy to play comfortably at the Games," explained Joshna, who has five medals from the continent's quadrennial event.

Speaking about sqaush making its Olympic debut at the Los Angles Games in 2028, the Chennai-born, with roots in Kodagu, termed the inclusion as a massive step forward for the overall growth of the sport.

"I mean, it's massive, right? All of us were doing quite okay at the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and on the Pro Tour. But there was still something that was lacking in terms of support and recognition just because we were not an Olympic sport.

"And now that sqaush is there, I see such a difference in terms of financial support with a lot of corporates coming in and awareness of the game. There's so much funding from both the state and central governments as well. And that's really benefiting our players now. So what I probably got at a much later stage of my career is what players are getting at 15, 16 years old now," offered the Arjuna Awardee.

And the most well-known among India's younger lot making waves is Anahat for whom Joshna not only has high praise but also feels is a medal hope at the LA Olympics.

"Anahat's results speak for themselves. It's not easy to win pro tournaments. And she's been doing that at the highest level. So I honestly see her as a medal prospect in 2028. Also, I think she's got a right head on her shoulders. And I expect a lot from her and from the rest of the boys as well. The boys are doing really well too."

Last 3 months were the hardest: captain Stokes

LONDON, PTI: England Test captain Ben Stokes has described the past three months, which involved a difficult Ashes campaign, as the "hardest period" of his leadership journey while reiterating his commitment to rebuild the side with coach Brendon McCullum.

After the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed that Stokes, McCullum and managing director Rob Key would continue in their roles despite England's 4-1 drubbing in the Ashes, the 34-year-old shared an emotional open letter on social media on Monday.

"Being England captain is the greatest honour a player can be given and I do not take it for granted. It has its highs and it has its lows, it makes you want to smile it makes you want to cry," Stokes said in post with a picture of himself, Key and McCullum on Instagram.

"It completely and utterly consumes you and feels like it's the only thing in your life at times. The last 3 months has without a doubt been the hardest period of my captaincy journey, it's tested me in so many different ways and I'm sure every other captain has gone through this as well," he wrote.

Stressing that lessons have been learnt from the setbacks, Stokes asserted he is committed to to rebuilding the side alongside McCullum and Key.

"Baz, Rob and myself have the passion and desire to take this team forward, we are going to give you everything we have, we know we made mistakes along the way and we have learnt from those mistakes."

Ben Stokes

IN BRIEF

Primrose beat Dharwad 2-1

▸ Two third-quarter goals from Avinash R (35th minute) and Arjun (39th) sealed a narrow 2-1 victory for Primrose Hockey Club over Dharwad District in the KSHA 'B' Division Hockey League Championship on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Result: Primrose HC: 2 (Avinash R 35th, Arjun 39th) bt DDHA: 1 (Sachin M 18th).

Gandhinagar post 5-2 win

▸ B Madan and Sharan Raj scored a brace each as Gandhinagar posted a 5-2 victory over Malleswaram in the second edition of the Chief Minister's Cup football tournament at the BFS on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Results: Gandhinagar: 5 (B Madan 13th, 57th, Sharan Raj 42nd, 53rd, Narendran M 55th) bt Malleswaram: 2 (R Pavan Prasad 67th, Vishruth Hegde 88th); BTM Layout: 3 (Suman Sudhakar Dev 29th, 72nd pen, AS Suhas Ebenwzer 44th) bt Padmanabhanagar: 2 (Jithendra Sharma 11th, Anil Kumar R 74th).

Anushka earns maiden call-up

▸ Anushka Sharma on Tuesday received her maiden India call-up for the five-match away T20I series against South Africa beginning on April 17, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Durban, Johannesburg and Benoni will host the series.

From the squad that featured in the 2-1 win over Australia, Sneha Rana, Amanjot Kaur, G Kamalini and Vaishnavi Sharma don't find a place in the line-up for South Africa series.

India squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (capt), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (WK), Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Thakur, Kranti Gaud, Sree Charani, Shreyanka Patil, Kashvee Gautam, Bharti Fulmali, Uma Chetry (WK), Anushka Sharma.

FSE file lawsuit against FIFA

▸ The Football Supporters Europe (FSE) group filed a lawsuit on Tuesday with the European Commission against football's world governing body FIFA over "excessive ticket prices" for this year's World Cup finals, reports AFP from Lausanne.

"FIFA holds a monopoly over ticket sales for the 2026 World Cup and has used that power to impose conditions on fans that would never be acceptable in a competitive market," the FSE said in a statement.

India land in Maldives

▸ The Indian Under-20 men's football team has arrived here for the SAFF Championship and will square off against traditional foes Pakistan in its opening match on Thursday, reports PTI from Male, Maldives.

After this game, the Blue Colts will face Bangladesh on March 28 in the Group B of the tournament that kicked off on Monday.

Both matches will be played at the National Stadium.

The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semis that will take place on April 1.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

5th T20I: NZ women vs SA women (**7:15 am**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1**, **FanCode**.

5th T20I: New Zealand vs South Africa (**11:45 am**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1**, **FanCode**.

FOOTBALL

IFL: Real Kashmir vs Namdhari (**4 pm**), Sreenidi Deccan vs Dempo (**6:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5**, **SonyLIV**.

TENNIS

Miami Open: Quarterfinals (**8:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

Kolkata franchise banks big on overseas batters and Indian spinners

KNIGHTS' RIDE HIT by injuries to pacers

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane (right) will have to come up with a combination that will off-set the loss of key pacer Harshit Rana (second from left) for the entire duration of the IPL. AFP FILE PHOTO

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Kolkata Knight Riders, with three titles, are the most successful franchise in the Indian Premier League after Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings, who have five each. At the end of last year's auction, they had every reason to believe they had assembled a squad capable of winning a fourth title.

The turn of events since then, however, has thrown their combination into disarray. It is almost as if someone has cast an evil spell on them. First, they lost Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman for reasons beyond their control. Then came an even bigger setback, with Harshit Rana being ruled out of the entire league due to a knee injury. Another Indian pacer, Akash Deep, suffered a similar fate, while Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana is set to miss a significant number of matches.

Rana's absence will hurt KKR the most, as he has been a key bowler with the ability to contribute useful runs down the order. In a side loaded with overseas batting talent, his unavailability disrupts the team balance because they don't have the same depth when it comes to overseas bowling options.

So how do they tide over this issue? One way would be to fall back on heavy spin options in Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy and Anukul Roy, who has had an excellent domestic season. For that they would need the pitches for home games to suit the trio, a luxury they weren't afforded last season. Narine will need to be at his best with the ball, and a few cameos, depending upon where he bats, would greatly benefit KKR. They will also be hoping Chakravarthy, who looked out of sorts towards the back end of the T20 World Cup, regains his rhythm.

In away matches, KKR will perhaps have to adapt Sunrisers Hyderabad's approach of batting the opposition out of the game. And there is some serious firepower in their ranks. Finn Allen is a player who can change games in a matter of overs. Beyond him, there are Cameron Green, Tim Seifert and Rovman Powell who can give KKR flexibility and power. Not to mention skipper Ajinkya Rahane who was their standout performer both in terms of average and strike rate. But, with as many as five opening options, KKR face another dilemma of choosing their top two.

Green, who has endured a poor run of form in international cricket since his return following a prolonged break, is expected to do the role that Andre Russell executed so exceedingly well before his retirement after the last season. Coming with a price tag of Rs 25.2 crore -- the second highest behind Rishabh Pant's Rs 27 cr in the history of the league -- it remains to be seen if Green proves to be a value for money or just wilts under the weight of price-tag pressure. It's also not clear how much bowling he can do as Cricket Australia keep a close eye on the workload of their players.

Another player that can be crucial for KKR's fortunes is Rinku Singh, who has been underutilised in the last couple of seasons. He is too good a player to be wasted as a finisher who gets to face, on most occasions, a dozen balls or less. With Venkatesh Iyer no longer in their in their roster, KKR should bat Rinku no lower than five where he will have more opportunities of maxmising his potential.

The squad: Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Finn Allen, Tim Seifert, Rachin Ravindra, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Rinku Singh, Cameron Green, Matheesha Pathirana, Ramandeep Singh, Sourav Dubey, Rovman Powell, Manish Pandey, Vaibhav Arora, Sunil Narine, Varun Chakaravarthy, Umran Malik, Anukul Roy, Kartik Tyagi, Rahul Tripathi.

Best finishes: Champions (2012, 2014, 2024).

> The skill is there, that's not going to change in the next 10 days. But what changes is our mentality. So every moment that we spend on this ground, every moment we spend with each other, with the coaches, amongst ourselves, there's one goal. We have to do one thing, we have to win, we have to get that fourth star (title).
>
> **Abhishek Nayar,** Head Coach

IPL captains' meeting to discuss rules

MUMBAI, PTI: The Indian Premier League captains' meeting with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will be held here on Wednesday ahead of the 19th edition of the tournament and the confab will hold a discussion on matters such as the impact substitute rule and code of conduct.

The captains' meeting with the BCCI is a norm and the meeting here will be addressed by former India player Javagal Srinath and Nitin Menon who are the heads of match referees and umpires panels respectively.

"There is nothing new in the regulations this year. Some of the captains and coaches are new and it is important to inform them about the rules," a BCCI official said.

Among the points to be discussed are also two bouncers per over, checks for the size of the bat, replacement of the ball when it is lost or unfit for play, retired out calls, and use of saliva.

The ban on using saliva to shine the ball, in effect in international cricket from September 2022, was lifted from IPL ahead of the 2025 edition.

In contrast, some important decisions were taken during the 2025 captains' meeting, and the permission to use of saliva after obtaining consensus from 10 captains was the most significant among them.

It was also decided to give the team bowling second the option to request a ball change once after the 10th over. This was done to address challenges posed by dew during the evening matches.

As per the rule, the bowling captain can make the ball-change request, regardless of whether there is visible dew or not, but the on-field officials will select the new ball.

It was also decided to expand the DRS' scope by including height-based no-ball reviews and wide-ball reviews outside the off-stump.

Pacer Dayal to miss the season

RCB's Bobat unsure of Hazlewood's availability

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a middle of legal wrangle, RCB pacer Yash Dayal has opted to skip the upcoming Indian Premier League season. PTI

In a massive jolt to Royal Challengers Bengaluru, pacer Yash Dayal, in the middle of a legal wrangle, will be out of action this entire season. This, along with uncertainty over their spearhead Josh Hazlewood's return, is a major setback as they seek to defend their title.

Dayal, who bagged 13 wickets last season and has been an integral member of the pace pack along with Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, has not played any competitive cricket since the Royal Challengers lifted the IPL crown for the first time last June.

The 28-year-old southpaw from Uttar Pradesh has been accused of sexual exploitation by two women, with one of them being a minor teenager. A FIR under POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) was filed by Jaipur police last July against Dayal in this case. The other FIR was filed, also last July, at the Allahabad High Court. Dayal is currently out on bail and married popular content creator and digital influencer Shweta Pundir in February.

RCB Director of Cricket Mo Bobat, addressing the media here ahead of the season-opening clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad, said the franchise has decided to stand by Dayal and will not be seeking a replacement. "Yash won't be joining the squad right now as he's dealing with some personal matters. He's still very much part of the franchise and we're in regular touch with him, but at this point, we feel it's best to give him the space he needs.

"It's been something we've been aware of for a while, so we did go into the auction prepared for different scenarios, with options like Rasikh (Dar) and Mangesh (Yadav) in mind. Naturally, it's a setback, but not something we're unprepared for," added Bobat, saying the franchise will be paying Dayal his full salary of Rs 5 crore.

On Hazlewood, RCB's ace bowler last season with 22 scalps who is now recovering from a hamstring strain and Achilles tendon, Bobat said they are hopeful of the Australian linking up with the squad at the earliest.

"So he's currently working through the Return to Play programme. He's doing that in Australia currently. We are liaising very closely with both Josh and Cricket Australia. And our medical teams are collaborating very strongly on a day-to-day basis on his programme. We'll continue to communicate with him. And as soon as he gets to a point where Cricket Australia are happy, he'll come over. And we hope to have him with us very soon."

Although RCB will be without two of their key bowlers, with one likely to miss at least the opening half, Bobat was confident about the likes of Dar and Mangesh stepping up. "In terms of squad depth, we've kept our options open. Mangesh Yadav is a strong option if we go down the domestic replacement route, and players like Abhinandan (Singh) and Rasikh are also in the mix. It's about making the right call at the right time."

For the first time Royal Challengers will enter a season under a different kind of pressure. For 18 seasons they were chasing the elusive crown but now, for the first time, start as champions. Bobat, one of the key men in RCB's turnaround with plenty of good work behind the scenes, felt the franchise is hoping to use 2025 as a springboard for more glory.

11 permanent empty seats at KSCA for departed fans

To honour the lives of 11 fans who lost their lives in the stampede caused by Royal Challengers Bengaluru's trophy celebrations last June, the franchise said they'll be creating 11 permanent seats at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium starting with the first IPL game against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday, reports DHNS,

"In memory of the 11 fans we lost, the players will wear jersey number 11 during practice sessions on match day and also wear black armbands. We are also creating 11 permanent empty seats at KSCA as a tribute to the fans who will always remain a part of our journey," said RCB CEO Rajesh Menon.

Kohli impresses

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Royal Challengers Bengaluru underwent an intensive practice session at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium with the talismanic Virat Kohli **(in pic)** enjoying another short but impressive outing during their final practice game here, ahead of their IPL opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad on March 28.

On the other hand, Phil Salt struggled to find his rhythm with Jacob Duffy, Abhinandan Singh and Rasikh Dar sharing the new-ball duties. Duffy drew a mistake from Kohli, but the latter was fortunate to see his thick outside edge dropped near the boundary rope at third man. Once Kohli settled down, he pressed the accelerator with a couple of silky drives and flicks. And when Duffy slightly erred in his length, Kohli smoked him down the ground for a maximum.

The most impressive shot during Kohli's stay came off Dar when judged the length perfectly, charged down the track and whacked it over mid-wicket for a six.

He then played a trademark on drive to collect another boundary.

IPL UPDATES

DC's Duckett pulls out

▸ Ben Duckett has decided to pull out of his IPL 2026 stint with Delhi Capitals, and the England opener now faces a two-year ban from the league and auction as per the amended rules, reports PTI from London.

Payne named as replacement

▸ Sunrisers Hyderabad have named David Payne as the replacement for the injured Jack Edwards ahead of the IPL beginning on March 28, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Rinku named KKR VC

▸ Kolkata Knight Riders on Tuesday named destructive lower middle-order batter Rinku Singh as their vice-captain, reports DHNS.

RCB sold for Rs 16,600 crore

RCB, From Page 1

The two teams are managed by the Royal Challengers Sports Private Ltd (RCSPL), a subsidiary of the the United Spirits Ltd. Diageo had expressed its desire to focus solely on its core business, which is alcobev business, in a filing with the Bombay Stock Exchange in early November last.

In a statement issued then, USL had stated: "RCSPL has been a valuable and strategic asset for USL, however it is non-core to our alcobev business. This step reinforces USL's and Diageo's commitment to continue reviewing its India enterprise portfolio to enable sustained delivery of long-term value to all its stakeholders, while keeping RCSPL's best interest in mind."

Adar Poonawalla of Serum Institute of India, Ranjan Pai of Manipal Hospitals, private equity firms EQT, TPG and Temasek and the Glazer family that owns the Manchester United were, among others, the interested parties.

Royals sold

The Somani-led consortium includes Rob Walton from the Walmart family and the Hamp family (Ford).

RCB-SRH tickets gone in four minutes!

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite a turbulent last 10 months, during which Royal Challengers Bengaluru came under heavy criticism for their handling of the trophy celebrations that claimed the lives of 11 fans, the franchise's following among its faithful has taken little hit.

After much delay, the tickets for RCB's opening game on Saturday against the Sunrisers Hyderabad at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium went on sale on Tuesday evening at 4.00 pm, and it got sold out within four minutes! While it reiterated the enduring love between RCB and its faithful, it also showed how much fans in Bengaluru were craving to watch a top-flight cricket at Chinnaswamy that was banned from hosting high-profile games following the stampede.

Preetham Karigar, who heads the hugely popular Namma Team RCB fan group that has 111k followers on Instagram, said most of them were waiting for this moment after months of uncertainty where it looked like RCB may be forced to play their home matches elsewhere as the State Government failed to give the Karnataka State Cricket Association the green signal. "That period where news kept coming that RCB may play their matches in Pune or Raipur really hurt us.

After 17 years, RCB finally won a trophy and they won't be playing their matches in front of their ardent fans at Chinnaswamy. Every time there was an inspection at Chinnaswamy, we were keeping a close track," said Preetham, who managed to bag tickets for the opener.

"And when it was confirmed that Chinnaswamy would be hosting RCB, it was an emotional moment for us. We felt the same joy when RCB won the trophy last year."

Aditya Bardwaj, an employee with a private firm and a member of the RCB Fan Army, too expressed delight at the franchise deciding to play their home games here but rued the fact that he couldn't buy the tickets.

"Within no time the tickets were sold out. I was really looking forward to the opening ceremony and watching RCB enter the field as champions. Normally, RCB allocates a portion of tickets to the various fan groups. This time we didn't get any."

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

EXPERIENCE A NEW DAWN OF ELECTRIC MOBILITY.

Redefine your boundaries with Maruti Suzuki's First Electric SUV, **the e VITARA.**
Turn long drives into epic journeys, backed by India's Largest Fast Charging Network.
Designed to offer everything you expect from an SUV, and everything you didn't expect from an EV.

e VITARA
India goes electric

Introductory BaaS price
₹10.99 LAKH* + Battery EMI @ ₹3.99/km

INDIA'S LARGEST* FAST-CHARGING NETWORK

543 km RANGE*

BHARAT NCAP
5 STAR SAFETY RATING BNCAP*

NEXA edge
60% ASSURED BUYBACK AFTER 3 YEARS
COMPLIMENTARY HOME CHARGER & INSTALLATION WORTH ₹ 50 000
8 YEARS WARRANTY
• BATTERY: 8 YEARS
• VEHICLE: 3+5(PAID) YEARS
COMPLIMENTARY CHARGING FOR 1 YEAR

SCAN TO CONNECT TO A SHOWROOM NEAR YOU

E-BOOK TODAY @ WWW.NEXAEXPERIENCE.COM

*₹ 10.99 lakh for e VITARA Delta. Battery EMI: ₹ 3.99/km (subject to financier terms). Taxes and statutory charges are extra. Visit dealership for full T&Cs. | *As certified by Kantar IMRB for an OEM platform for end-to-end usage as on November 28, 2025. | *543 km range: Certified range; actual results may vary by driving conditions and usage. | *ADAS features are for driver assistance only. Driver is responsible for safe and attentive driving. | *Always wear your seatbelt. | *Mentioned ownership plan is for e VITARA Delta variant. Calculation is done assuming vehicle is running 60 km per day, excluding charging cost. Valid on retail sales for the e VITARA till 31st March '26, capped at 1 000 units of electricity (kWh) per customer or 1 Year from the purchase of the vehicle, whichever is earlier. Assured buyback plan is available on payment basis with the option of 3 years/45 000 km or 4 years/60 000 km ownership plans (whichever is earlier). The program is offered through an Insurance company. e VITARA comes with standard warranty of 3 years/1 00 000 km with an option of extending the same on payment basis to 5 years/1 40 000 km and service activated coverage for 6th to 8th year for EV related components.